

Kissinger: a heart operation

Dr Henry Kissinger, aged 58, the former American Secretary of State, is to undergo a triple bypass heart operation today. A spokesman for Dr Kissinger said he was in good health and spirits, but that routine tests had shown the delicate surgical procedure was necessary. Dr Kissinger was taken to hospital last week after complaining of pains in the shoulder and arm.

Lords back shop hours Bill

The House of Lords gave an unopposed second reading to Lady Trumpington's Bill to allow shopkeepers to trade when they like, including Sundays. Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, had earlier told MPs that the Government was neutral, neither opposing the Bill nor planning to introduce its own legislation. Parliament, page 4.

Reagan plans for new nerve gas

President Reagan has formally told Congress that he wishes to resume the development of chemical weapons, including the manufacture of a new nerve gas. He reaffirmed United States policy against using them first. Page 6.

Manila kidnap victim freed

Tommy Manotoc, the Filipino sportsman who was kidnapped more than a month ago, has reappeared in Manila. He told a press conference of a rescue raid by government troops on the guerrilla camp where he was held. Page 6.

'New federalism' promoted

President Reagan, on a tour of the Middle West, defended his budget proposals and promoted his concept of "new federalism", under which 43 federal programmes would be returned to the states. Page 7.

Homes sales

The Court of Appeal ruled that Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, was justified in taking over the sale of Norwich council houses and the council's appeal was dismissed. Page 4.

Borrowing up

The Government is on course to meet its borrowing targets, latest figures suggest. But efforts to control money supply have been hit by a jump of £1,500m in private borrowing. Page 13.

Saunders quits

Ron Saunders resigned as manager of Aston Villa after disagreeing with his board about strengthening the team. Results this season have been disappointing after last year's championship. Page 18.

Laker wants to launch a 'people's airline'

Sir Freddie Laker said last night that he planned to set up a new "people's Airline", with public participation. In a statement to the Press Association he said: "To avoid speculation I confirm that, as a result of the enormous public support, I am actively exploring a new airline project and the future plans include charter flights on the 'People's Airline'."

"I am deeply grateful for this support and to the organizers of 'Sir Freddie's Friendly' and others. I do not know as yet the amount of support which any new venture may require and because of that I would ask that no further contribution be sent in for the time being."

Aviation analysts believe that Sir Freddie's new plans would entail setting up a charter airline, possibly leasing aircraft.

A cautious statement from the Civil Aviation Authority said: "We would have to examine his proposals very carefully. He would have to come to us in any case. If he starts a new airline, he would have to prove to us his financial viability and his fitness to operate an airline. His whole case would be treated just like any other."

Meanwhile Mr Bill Mackey, the receiver appointed to Laker Airways, was considering offers for the company's two package holiday subsidiaries.

The value of Laker Travel Agency, which is based in the North-west, was eroding by the hour as travel agents continued to switch holiday bookings out of them.

Mr Mackey therefore wanted to make a sale as soon as possible and expected to make a decision on the offers later in the night. Offers for both companies together were thought to be only £2m or less.

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Haig attacks suppression of freedom in Poland

From Our Own Correspondent, Madrid, Feb 9

Western Nations today fought off Soviet attempts to prevent debate on Poland at the European security conference here after the United States had attacked Moscow for what it described as "massive violations" of human rights.

The six-hour dispute began when M Claude Cheysson, the French Foreign Minister, was about to address the 35-nation East-West meeting.

The Soviet representative supported by Poland and other East European countries sought to curtail further discussion on Poland. Western diplomats said that they had no intention of backing down and claimed that Mr Jozef Wiczej, the Polish deputy Foreign Minister, who happened to be the conference chairman, was obeying obstructionist tactics dictated by Moscow.

The dispute was finally resolved when Belgium on behalf of the Western and neutral nations formally protested against the chairman's "unprecedented" interpretation of the Madrid conference rules, but agreed to let him close today's plenary session.

M Cheysson and the other 13 speakers listed to address the conference today will now speak on Friday with Lord Carrington who is joining the conference.

Mr Wiczej maintained that he was following a unanimous agreement made before the Christmas adjournment to restrict today's meeting to a plenary morning session.

During his speech before the procedural wrangle began, Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, said that Poland's military leadership "acting under the direction and coercion of the Soviet Union" was suppressing the "most fundamental freedoms" of the Polish people. He went on: "The Polish regime and the Soviet Union have violated the Helsinki Final Act [the legal document which emerged from the original meeting of the European Security Conference]."

"They have taken a path inimical to security and co-operation in Europe. It is up to them to demonstrate that they take seriously the principles to which they are pledged," Mr Haig said. Listing various violations which he described as "acts of oppression and intervention", he said that to ignore them would make a charade of the Madrid talks.

Night-long negotiations between Western and Eastern delegates agreed that speakers finally permitted the conference to resume as scheduled this morning after the Christmas recess.

Mr Haig, speaking to reporters after his speech while the conference was still bogged down on procedures, indicated the United States would go on speaking about Poland "for as long as necessary out of respect for the European security process".

The American delegation would assess carefully Eastern block reactions over the coming days, perhaps weeks, he promised. Mr Haig expected Western countries to go on speaking vigorously about Poland, but a decision whether to leave the Madrid talks was a matter of consensus. "It is not for us to say," he added.

"The generals of this war against the Polish people are none other than those of the Polish regime itself, acting under the instigation and coercion of the Soviet Union. We would be threatening the future peace of Europe if we ignored this dramatic attack on international principles."

The deputy Polish Foreign Minister left the chair while Mr Haig continued speaking, going to join his national delegation but having the deputy leader of the Polish group take the chair instead. So far there have been no walk-outs.

A campaign for withdrawal would jeopardize TUC policy. It would certainly place TUC representatives on such bodies as the EEC social fund and the European economic and social committee in a difficult position.

On legislation, the paper admits that there are instances where European laws have been seen as unhelpful in Britain. "A campaign for withdrawal would jeopardize TUC policy. It would certainly place TUC representatives on such bodies as the EEC social fund and the European economic and social committee in a difficult position."

Examining the EEC's international role, the TUC paper notes: "There is a growing tendency for the EEC to speak with a distinct authoritative voice independently of the US and USSR blocks on issues of world importance. EEC pressure has helped the UK to take a stronger line."

Whatever economic arrangements Britain has with the rest of Europe, political links need to be studied further, and this could be done by the EEC. As peace, disarmament and the promotion of human and trade union freedoms.

Congress House experts argue that their paper does not mean the TUC is taking any policy on Europe, insisting that their intention is to do more work in a number of areas, and trade union leaders are invited to discuss the issues with a view to suggesting priorities for further work.

However, the draft policy paper is unusually explicit in saying that the TUC is not to be seen as endorsing any annual congress policy resolution, and left-wing union leaders (who will mostly be absent from today's meeting) should be warned not to implement TUC policy on a central political issue.

The TUC opposed Britain's original accession to the EEC and has maintained an anti-EEC stance ever since.

The unions agreed in Blackpool last September not only to campaign for withdrawal from the EEC, but to "express opposition to EEC laws and regulations at every level by opposing the measures indicated by these provisions on trade union members and their families."

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TUC study swings towards the EEC

By Paul Rontledge, Labour Editor

Trade union leaders who want to take Britain out of the European Economic Community will today receive a confidential report that argues against precipitate withdrawal.

The TUC Economic Committee, is being asked to authorize an extended study of the benefits and drawbacks of community membership on the basis of an investigation that refuses to back the left's policy of separation from Europe.

Last year's congress of the TUC in Blackpool instructed the general council to campaign for withdrawal from the EEC, but the draft policy document before union leaders this morning argues that food prices might even be cheaper through the much-demonstrated common agricultural policy.

The disparity between community prices and world prices is not as great as it once was, and there would be substantial difficulties in returning to the position whereby the United Kingdom enjoyed relatively cheap supplies of food from the Commonwealth, the document says.

The policy paper, prepared by Congress House staff, also says that there has been a substantial increase in imports from EEC countries since Britain went into Europe.

However, account has also to be taken of increased United Kingdom exports to the EEC, not all of which can be explained by North Sea oil.

The whole tenor of the policy paper is against any notion of precipitate withdrawal, and on trade issues argues that Britain outside Europe would face tariff barriers on exports. "It would be wrong to adopt a policy which would leave the UK's manufacturing industry in a more exposed position than it is at the moment," the document states.

Turning to economic strategy, Congress House experts argue that development aid schemes have supported industry in Britain, and some regional policy initiatives taken in Brussels have helped British industry.

Rebelling union leaders that the TUC had asked for a more positive role for EEC funds extra to UK public funding, the document adds: "A campaign for withdrawal would jeopardize TUC policy. It would certainly place TUC representatives on such bodies as the EEC social fund and the European economic and social committee in a difficult position."

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Mr Roland Davies (top, centre) being escorted along platform 1 at St Marks Station, Lincoln, by railway policemen yesterday and (below) his train - the only BR passenger train running - approaching Derby.



Aslef's lone driver rides into the sunset

By Arthur Osman

Mr Roland Davies, aged 61, has left Aslef, the Association of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, after 25 years.

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McCarthy inquiry opens

Real unions taking part in the committee of inquiry into the death of a railway driver.

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Liberals face SDP ban on dual membership

By Philip Webster, Political Correspondent

Liberalism joined the Social Democratic Party in addition to their own to express their commitment to the alliance face imminent expulsion from the SDP because of dual membership.

The issue will not be debated at next weekend's constitutional convention of the SDP in London, which many believe will be the last chance to stay in the new party, because no amendments have been tabled to what they see as the offending clause.

Mr Malcolm Mason, a member of both parties, said he had been conducting a tireless but unsuccessful campaign to persuade SDP leaders to change the constitution.

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Beaumont retires from rugby

By Arthur Osman

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Rubik takes a 'fiendish' Revenge

Fresh from a tortuous legal battle in the High Court, the team that introduced the world to the Rubik Cube yesterday prepared to launch an even bigger and more versatile successor, known as Rubik's Revenge (David Nicholson-Lord, writes).

The Revenge will have 96 squares to be wrenched into total alignment, compared with the cube's 54.

For the mathematically inclined, that means 362 octillion possible variations, against the cube's 43 billion billion. It is described variously as "fiendish" and "guaranteed to send seasoned cubists 'one step closer to insanity'".

Rubik's Revenge was displayed for the first time in Britain at the British Court toy fair in London last week as its producers and distributors were nearing the end of a copyright dispute over its predecessor. World sales of the Rubik Cube are now estimated at 40 million.

The cube, devised by Dr Ernő Rubik, is produced by Politoys, the Hungarian state co-operative, and marketed in Britain at £4.95 by the Ideal Toy Company. In a complicated 30-minute judgment in the High Court Mr Justice Dillon ruled that rival cubes imported from Taiwan breached the Hungarian copyright, but found against Ideal on its claim for passing-off.

The Romans on tour in Britain

Howard Brenton, author of the controversial play *The Romans in Britain*, is to read the play as a narrative on a four-week national tour beginning on February 15. (Our Arts Correspondent writes).

He wants to emphasize by the tour that the play is not "illegal" because of the forthcoming indecency action by Mrs Mary Whitehouse against Mr Michael Bogdanov, the director of the play at the National Theatre.

Thatcher defends lead policy

Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday defended her government's record on the reduction of lead in petrol and said lead-free petrol could be introduced only in the long term (Philip Webster, Political Reporter, writes).

She said in the Commons that the decision to cut the maximum level of lead to 0.15 gms a litre by 1985 closely reflected the views of Sir Henry Yellowless, the Government's Chief Medical Officer of Health.

Panel to review custody laws

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, told a delegation of Conservative and Labour MPs yesterday that a working party of judges, registrars and probation and court welfare officers would be appointed to consider how better to safeguard the interests of children of divorcing parents (Our Political Staff writes).

The delegation said changes were needed to improve the fragmentary manner in which custody and other issues.

Labour move on arms

A move to extend the Labour Party's disarmament commitment from nuclear to chemical weapons was made by members of the party national executive yesterday. Mr Frank Auland, MP for Salford, East, said the international committee had passed a formal resolution endorsing the American decision to produce a new range of chemical weapons.

Oldfield for Bradford

Mr George Oldfield, the Yorkshire Ripper, is taking charge of Bradford, the area where Peter Sutcliffe, the 13 times killer lived, as Assistant Chief Constable, Western Division, of West Yorkshire.

Candidate selected

Mr Bryan Gould, former Labour MP for Southampton, Test, has been selected to fight the Barking, Dagenham, constituency in east London for the party at the next general election. He succeeds Mr John Parker who is to retire at the next election.

Inquiry may hold separate talks with train drivers

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

The committee of inquiry into the rail dispute, which has been boycotted by the train drivers' union, began taking evidence yesterday and the unions appearing before it prepared a report will be ready by the end of the week.

The hearing started as the executive of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (ASLEF) decided to select witnesses next week with stoppages on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday. Services are expected to be severely disrupted today and there is another 24-hour strike tomorrow.

Lord McCarthy, the inquiry chairman yesterday heard submissions from British Rail, the National Union of Railwaymen and the white-collar Transport Salaried Staffs Association. The hearings have been adjourned until this afternoon, when the committee's examination of the evidence should be completed.

All three rail unions are due at the House of Commons this morning to give evidence in private to the select committee on transport, which is investigating BR's electrification plans and productivity in the industry.

In spite of ASLEF's boycott Lord McCarthy is understood to be keen to find a way of persuading the union to attend. BR and the other unions would resist any plan to hold a separate session of the committee for ASLEF, but it is thought that Lord McCarthy has not entirely ruled out this possibility.

ASLEF's executive took less than an hour to decide to repeat the current pattern of strikes next week, which are costing £6m each weekday. Mr Raymond Buckton, ASLEF general secretary, said that the introduction of flexible rostering, which is at the heart of the dispute over a 3 per cent pay increase, would save the board only £2.25m a year, although it would mean 4,000 lost footplate jobs.

The two other unions and BR hope that Lord McCarthy and his colleagues will make firm recommendations on the rights and wrongs of the dispute.

Mr Clifford Rose, BR's board member for industrial relations, asked the inquiry to find that ASLEF had failed to meet a commitment made last August to negotiate a departure from the eight-hour day and that the board's proposals for flexible rostering were reasonable.

He also asked the committee to rule that the parties should expedite negotiations on other aspects of the six-point productivity plan outlined in the August settlement, which gave railway staff an 11 per cent, two-stage award.

"Let me reiterate once more that our agreement on pay was only possible because the trade unions, all of them, freely committed themselves to meaningful progress on productivity," he said.

"The resolution of this dispute is vital to the future of British railways. If it is resolved positively it can help us to a better future, a future where we can say with confidence that we are prepared to make our own contribution and ask the nation to make its contribution."

The ASLEF stance on rostering, to allow for the introduction of the 39-hour week, would cost an extra £5 for footplate staff and would involve the creation of 500 new jobs, he said.

Mr Thomas Jenkins, general secretary of the TSSA, said in his evidence to the inquiry that there were "faults that can be attributed to different parties" and he believed that BR had broken last August's understanding on pay by refusing to pay to ASLEF members a 3 per cent increase due from the beginning of January.

He thought the board should have paid the increase and then proceeded through normal negotiating machinery on the productivity aspects, which the board felt had not been honoured.

Mr Sidney Weighall, general secretary of the NUR, told the committee his union believed that there had been two understandings reached last August on pay and productivity, which were completely separate. However, he also believed that ASLEF had not honoured productivity commitments made at the time.

Yorkshire miners "black" the movement by rail of coal from pits on ASLEF strike days are doing so in the knowledge that pit head storage will become full and pits will stop working (Ronald Kershaw writes from Barnsley). Branch officials of the National Union of Mineworkers are monitoring all coal movements to ensure that coal usually taken by rail is not moved by road.



Pyke arrives in Britain

Mr Andrew Pyke, the British businessman held in Iran for 17 months, walking through Heathrow Airport, London, yesterday with his wife after they arrived from Amsterdam. With them is Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, who met them.

Mr Pyke, looking fit, said he had been held in Iran on a trumped-up charge after turning down an Iranian pilot who asked him for a job. During his detention he saw some of his cell companions taken away hooded for execution. He said the case against him was "a file of rubbish".

Mixed reaction to 'Times' job cuts

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

The main craft print union stepped into the crisis at the House of Commons yesterday with an appeal to both sides in the company to work together to ensure that it had a "healthy, prosperous and viable future".

The unexpectedly conciliatory statement by Mr Joe Wade, general secretary of the National Graphical Association, came 24 hours after the warning by Mr Rupert Murdoch, company chairman, that *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* would be closed unless agreement on 600 redundancies was reached within days.

Mr Wade said that he did not accept the "ultimatum" from Mr Murdoch but added that the union had no alternative but to join management in discussions on a survival plan for the company. "It is clear that not only our members' jobs at *Times* Newspapers are at risk but also in other parts of News International," he said.

Mr Wade believed the strategy needed by *Times* Newspapers was comparable with that agreed between Mr Robert Maxwell and unions for the British Printing Corporation.

In contrast, Mr Owen O'Brien, general secretary of the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel, whose members must provide the largest number of reductions, continued yesterday to criticize the management's approach.

Mr O'Brien said: "We will be involved in talks with the management but I believe that both the timing and the size of redundancies requested is unrealistic."

Mr Wade said that the British Printing Corporation plan had resulted in "many casualties". But it meant that "BPC is now on its way to stability, prosperity and security of employment for those workers who remain".

A future for TNL would require goodwill and understanding from everybody concerned, Mr Wade added. "In particular it will require an exceptional degree of understanding, on the part of Mr Murdoch and his management, of the social implications and human problems created by this ultimatum."

TNL employees were yesterday given until tomorrow week to apply for voluntary redundancy under new severance terms, which range from 12 weeks' pay to a maximum of £25,000.

The terms, contained in a four-page document, appeared broadly comparable with those offered in previous schemes at TNL. However, they were less favourable in that they set a new minimum payment of 12 weeks, instead of 26, and imposed a new ceiling of £25,000 for the longest serving in the 21-59 age group. The company emphasized last night that the terms were substantially in excess of statutory redundancy payments.

In talks which began yesterday, and which will involve more than half of the 52 chapters (union office branches) at TNL, the company is seeking cuts among 2,550 part-time employees in addition to the reduction of 600 full-time jobs.

Making clear that all redundancies are conditional on overall agreement, the company's document states that individual applications for redundancy under the new terms will only be accepted "if there are sufficient volunteers both in aggregate and in each department affected by the company's redundancy proposals".

Separate terms will apply to journalists. The management, which is understood to be seeking between 360 and 390 cuts in clerical staff, wants a reduction in TNL editorial staff of about 35.

£75m contract for Marconi

A British company has won a £75m contract to build a new radar system for the Sea Wolf naval missile, after nearly 12 months of indecision at the Ministry of Defence.

Mr John Nutt, Secretary of State for Defence, announced yesterday that Marconi Radar Systems had beaten competition from the Dutch firm, Signaal, which could have saved several hundred jobs, mostly at Chelmsford, Essex.

□ If the Government was so foolish as to want to stay in the nuclear game it would have to buy Trident II instead of Trident I at a probable cost of £100m, he said.

The whole of this year's public sector borrowing requirement, Mr Dennis Davies, an Opposition spokesman on defence, said yesterday (our Political Staff writes).

He added that Trident II was a first-strike weapon, dedicated to the theory that nuclear war can be confined to military targets. Its purchase would much weaken Britain's conventional defences.

Businessmen displeased Travellers' tales cast shadow on BA

By Michael Baily, Transport Correspondent

How inefficient is British Airways, the state leviathan that stays afloat after losing £140m last year while Laker founders? Highly so, to judge by two recent statistics. It is the businessman's least popular airline, according to a poll carried out by the magazine, *Business Traveller*, and with 52,000 staff (since cut) it headed the International Air Transport Association (IATA) table of biggest employers among world airlines last year.

Feedback to *The Times* from dissatisfied customers is also fairly high. The airline's small selection: From a businessman in Bangkok: "I shall make absolutely sure that not only I, but everyone in my firm, never flies BA again. He was furious not only with BA's failure to accommodate him and his family on the flight to Bangkok although the reservations had been confirmed only a few hours earlier, but also with the unsympathetic attitude of BA staff. 'They almost made me feel it was my fault', he declared."

A businessman returning to London from Switzerland: "A neighbour and I returned on the same day and I was amazed to find he got home first, although I caught an earlier flight. The reason was that it took three hours to get my baggage at Heathrow, while his, with European airline, went straight through."

An Atlantic traveller: "They have cut down the cabin staff so much on their transatlantic jumbo flights that they can hardly cope with the workload. Their attitude on our flight seemed to be: 'We have got to suffer, so you are going to, too.'"

A colleague at *The Times*: "On a recent flight from Amman there were 12 overbooked, causing great distress to passengers. The stewardess told me it happened all the time. She could not take it any more and was applying for voluntary redundancy."

Another colleague at *The Times*: "I tend to keep away from British Airways. The stewardesses are like starry public schoolgirls who look down their nose at you. They are far too busy talking to each other to attend to you."

On punctuality, BA boasts of a remarkable improvement to 84 per cent of short haul and 69 per cent of long haul flights leaving within 15 minutes of scheduled time. But this is apparently still far short of some rivals: Lufthansa, for example, claims 93 per cent on United Kingdom flights, 95 per cent in Europe generally, and 98 per cent in Germany.

As the world's biggest international airline in terms of routes served—16 million passengers to 180 destinations in 1980-81—it is understandable that BA comes in for criticism, especially from the British, who so love to criticize their own.

Too much of it is justified, and apparently springs from overmanaging, restrictive practices and managerial lethargy that exist elsewhere in large-scale British industry, but not to the same extent in rival airlines.

Much of that is believed to go back to the forced merger between the British Overseas Airways Corporation (BOAC) and British European Airways (BEA) in 1974.

But BA is taking a firm grip on its problems. The target is profitability next year to pave the way for privatization. There is no reason why that should not succeed because BA has great inherent strengths; though the conglomerate may not stay in one piece.

A vigorous programme of rationalization is under way. By June the staff will have been reduced from 58,000 to 43,000 after a three-year programme of rationalization, routes and services are being dropped, and surplus aircraft put on the market.

□ A £4 cut to £110 return on the London-Scotland shuttle was announced by BA yesterday, and reduced fares to Europe were announced by the Air Europe holiday charter airline.

□ Many BA European flights were halted yesterday when more than 600 tarmac workers at Heathrow airport, London, claimed they had been locked out by the airline after refusing to operate new rosters (the Press Association reports).

Yesterday marked the implementation of BA's plan for economic survival, which includes new rosters, the ending of some demarcation lines and the extension of working hours. Many flights were cancelled, although management staff helped some services to operate. Shuttle flights were not affected.

BA hopes to operate two thirds of its European services today with the help of volunteers from other departments.

No more cash, Sir Freddie appeals

Raworth, a west London shopkeeper, while a spokesman for Laker Airways said that Sir Freddie had agreed to become a trustee of the Freddie Friendly Fund set up by Mrs Foster.

With estimates that between £1m and £3m had been raised or promised, Lloyds said that it was impossible to give a figure. Those making donations are being given a number of receipts by Lloyds stating that they have been ordered by Sir Freddie Laker to be used at his complete discretion for the purposes of maintaining the Laker Airways Institution group, or parts of the group, as a going concern, if possible failing which to be returned to the donor.

Mr Mackey said yesterday he was concerned only about those sending money. The sum involved was a magnificent gesture, but could not achieve the resuscitation of Sir Freddie Laker.

Sir Freddie's business has debts of £270m, and assets of £200m, with only £18m in shareholdings.

Mrs Hardy said: "Even if the money buys just one aircraft at the end of the day, Sir Freddie can start up again. He started with only one plane."

Those in airline circles, however, estimated the cost of one of Laker's DC10s at anything up to £10m. The Airbus he owns, in which some companies have expressed interest, should fetch higher prices.

Sir Freddie himself was in court again yesterday at a private hearing before a High Court Family Division judge. His American-born third wife was also present. The couple married in 1975 and have a four-year-old son.

Four-way battle, page 13

Science report

The largest molecule found so far in space

By the Staff of "Nature"

The largest molecule so far found in space turns out to be a chemical relative of acetylene containing fewer than 11 atoms of carbon strung together. The discovery of the molecule in the shell of gas surrounding a carbon-rich star 600 light years away is described by four radioastronomers, M. R. Bell, P. A. Feldman, Sun Kwok and E. M. Marston, from the Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics in Ottawa.

Its importance lies not so much in the size of the molecule as in the possibility of carbon stars in populating interstellar space with relatively complicated chemical materials. Carbon stars are those in which thermal nuclear processes have converted substantial amounts of their primary nuclear fuel into carbon, some of which has been expelled from the centre of the star by the pressure of radiation.

Data from two radio telescopes, in the United States and Canada, have been combined to show that the 11-carbon molecule exists in the outer atmosphere of the carbon star known as IRC+10°216. The star, which is relatively cool compared with the sun, has been known for some time to contain molecules of the family of which acetylene is the simplest member, and known as polynes, as well as cyanopolynes in which carbon is at one end and a hydrogen atom and at the other in a nitrogen atom.

The molecule now discovered has an atom of nitrogen at one end and a chain of 11 carbon atoms at the other. To chemists, it is known as cyano-deca-pentyne. Similar but smaller molecules have previously been recognized in the atmosphere of the star, especially the molecule constructed from a chain of seven carbon atoms.

In the atmosphere of the carbon star, the molecules have been recognized by their characteristic contribution, at predictable frequency, to the emission of radio waves from the outer atmosphere of the star. Altogether, three distinct spectral lines from the 11-carbon molecule have been found in the spectrum of frequencies from 23,500 to 24,500 megahertz, corresponding to a radio (or radar) wavelength of just over a centimetre. The spectral lines which have been measured are caused by changes in the rotational energy of 11-carbon molecules.

The most striking feature of the observations now reported is that the 11-carbon molecule seems to be 70 per cent as abundant as the smaller acetylene molecule in the atmosphere of the carbon star. The implication is that the processes by which these long-chain molecules are constructed in stellar atmospheres are surprisingly efficient. They do even go so far as to construct chains of graphite grains, thought to be an important constituent of interstellar dust.

The authors of the research say that these large molecules will be swept out of the atmosphere of the stars in which they are formed by the pressure of radiation, and that even though large proportions of them will then be destroyed by ultraviolet light from bright stars, they should be able to survive as carbonaceous chemicals in interstellar space.

Source: *Nature* (Vol 295, 1982, February 4, 1982).

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Irish ban on Sinn Fein party political broadcast

From Richard Ford, Lucan, co Dublin

The Irish Government moved swiftly yesterday to ban Provisional Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA, from having a two-minute party political broadcast on radio and television tomorrow.

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Norwich loses appeal in sale of houses

By David Walker

The Court of Appeal yesterday endorsed the decision of Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, to take over houses and flats owned by the Labour-controlled Norwich City Council to speed their sale to tenants.

Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, with Lord Justice Kerr and Lord Justice May, agreed that Mr Heseltine acted lawfully in making an order under the Housing Act, 1980, after months of negotiation with the council on the progress of sales.

The council showed too little concern for the rights of the tenants, Lord Denning said. "Norwich council acted in complete good faith, but was misguided," they had been badly advised on many issues and had to answer for the consequences. The judges dismissed the council's appeal against the Divisional Court's refusal to quash the Secretary of State's action and awarded costs, estimated at £20,000, against it.

However, Lord Denning held out hope that if Norwich was prepared to "get a move on" in processing tenants' applications to buy, there might be no need for Mr Heseltine to act.

Later Mr Leonard Stevenson, leader of the council, promised to give the judge's live branch a close look. "We have delivered on sales all that we could," he said. "We will consider whether there is a settlement to be made, but that depends on the Secretary of State as well."

Norwich is processing about 200 applications a month. At that rate it would reach the Government's target for house sales before June, the date set last year by the council and deemed by the Government to be too distant.

Mr Stevenson said he and his colleagues would adhere strictly to the law when it was finally determined. Although the Court of Appeal refused leave to appeal to the House of Lords, Norwich councillors are to consider petitioning the Lords for a review of the case.

In his judgment Lord Denning emphasized the powers given to the Secretary of State by the Housing Act.

But the courts also had a duty to protect the individual from the misuse of public power, in this case Lord Denning said, the individual was the tenant. Tenants had complained to the Secretary of State and the law gave him express permission to intervene.

After months of inquiry the Government has found proven charges against Norwich of slowness and delib-

ate delay. Mr Heseltine had written "From the first the council sought to inhibit and postpone the due process of tenants' claims under the law". Lord Denning and his fellow judges found that he had reached that decision properly.

The council's case had rested heavily on its refusal to employ the district valuer, an inland Revenue official, to speed the sale of its property. The judges determined that the Secretary of State's advice to Norwich to use the valuer's office was sound.

Norwich council has admitted the right of 900 of its 25,000 tenants to buy their homes, and about 450 sales have so far been completed.

The Department of the Environment said after the judgment that it would not direct civil servants to take over Norwich's housing until the council had decided whether to appeal. Mr Heseltine welcomed the verdict.

Boroughs can apply for withheld grants

Two London boroughs, Hackney and Camden, were given leave in the High Court yesterday to apply for orders compelling Mr Heseltine to hand over almost £6m wrongly withheld by him from last year's council grant.

The Press Association reported that the boroughs were seeking a ruling that the Secretary of State should not withhold grants from councils which have been found to be in breach of the law.

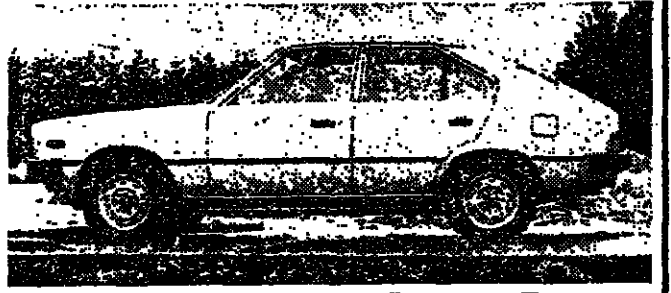
Mr Charles George, for the council, told Mr Justice Gledhill that the Queen's Bench Divisional Court that the council had acted unlawfully in withholding grants for six London boroughs and the money was still being withheld. The council was facing severe difficulties in fixing rates for the coming year.

Granting leave, the judge said the council had an arguable case. He hoped that the full hearing could take place early in March, in time for rate fixing. Mr Heseltine was not represented at the hearing.

Judge Hartley ruled at Knaresborough Crown Court, North Yorkshire, yesterday that the court had no jurisdiction to hear a case brought by Mr Gordon Plunkett, aged 40, a mortgage dealer, against Harrogate Borough Council, a correspondent writes.

Mr Plunkett wanted the court to declare illegal a supplementary rate levied by the council which he believed was required to pay for a new entertainment centre in Harrogate. The judge said Mr Plunkett could appeal to the Attorney General and ordered him to pay the council's costs, £5,000.

Law Report, page 8



Debut for South Korean Pony

The Hyundai Pony, the South Korean car which was launched on the British market yesterday. It comes in a range of 1200 cc, 1300 cc saloons and hatchbacks. (Peter Waymark writes). Hyundai started production six years ago under Mr George Turnbull, the former British Leyland executive, who is now chairman of Talbot. British components worth £32m went into its development, styled by Giugiaro of Italy, designer of the Lotus

Elite and Volkswagen Scirocco, the engine and gearbox are built under licence from Mitsubishi of Japan.

The Pony is being sold by International Motors, of West Bromwich. The sales target is 5,000 cars this year. Prices start at £3,177 for a 1200 cc hatchback, against £4,085 for the cheapest Ford Escort. The most expensive model costs £4,260. All models are covered by six-year warranty against corrosion.

Rape courts criticized

By Kenneth Gostling

The courts do not give enough protection against rape, according to 79 per cent of women questioned for a television programme.

The full results of the poll will be published later this week and shown on London Weekend Television's *Weekend World* on Sunday, which dramatised extracts from two recent rape trials will be used to demonstrate the way victims are cross-examined.

Mr David Cox, the programme's editor, said the trial excerpts, filmed with actors, showed defence lawyers trying to persuade the jury that the victims consented.

Mr Cox said victims who had not reported their cases to the police had also been interviewed.

A man whose brother was jailed for 18 years at Birmingham Crown Court last week for rape and kidnapping was sentenced yesterday to ten years' imprisonment by the same judge (The Press Association reports).

Gifford Hall, aged 30, had been cleared of two rape charges, but convicted with his brother Norris of four kidnappings. The court had been told that the brothers kidnapped girls, took them to a flat in Woodcock Lane, Northfield, Birmingham, and forced them into prostitution.

How rape law works, page 8

Police aid for shoplifters

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

Twelve suicides by people accused of shoplifting as a first offence have been reported in the past year to the Portia Trust, which helps people suffering from emotional distress, the trust said yesterday.

Mr Colin Gieves, its southern organizer, praised police forces which are pioneering ways of reducing recidivism by causing some elderly people to kill themselves.

Essex police, who run one of the schemes, yesterday disclosed for last year figures to *The Times*. They show that only 58 of 484 elderly offenders — aged over 60 — were re-arrested. Most of the offences, 362, were of theft from shops.

The police have found that old people mostly steal from shops, chiefly sherry and whisky. Offenders the police identify as being at risk, perhaps through mental or physical disability, are cautioned in most cases.

As with the elderly, they are referred to agencies and doctors for help. One offender was severely depressed after being made redundant last year only five of 59 offenders at risk were prosecuted.

Europe-wide deal needed to ban lead in petrol

PM'S QUESTIONS

Measures announced by the Government last year to reduce the level of lead in petrol had clearly reflected the views of Sir Henry Vellor, chief medical officer at the Department of Health and Social Security, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during questions in the Commons.

In his letter, written last year and published in *The Times* on Monday, Sir Henry warned the Government that the lead in petrol was a serious health hazard and that there is a strong likelihood that lead in petrol is permanently reducing the IQ of many of our children.

Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, asked if Mrs Thatcher had studied this extremely alarming letter. Does she accept the view (he went on) that the brain damage of some hundreds of thousands of children might be involved and does she not think it is a matter of urgent action must be taken by the Government to deal with the problem?

Mrs Thatcher: In view of the letter. But last May, Mr Tom King, the Minister for Local Government and Environment Services, announced a wide-ranging package of measures designed to reduce further people's exposure to lead.

The measures included a reduction in the maximum amount of lead permitted in petrol from 0.4 grams per litre to 0.15 grams per litre, by the end of 1985. That is the earliest date by which the oil industry can make the necessary changes to their refineries.

The Government's decision closely reflected Sir Henry's views. It gives the earliest possible substantial reduction of lead levels which he recommended. A wholly lead-free car can only be introduced in the United Kingdom in the long term.

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PARLIAMENT February 9 1982



Callaghan: An error

ator's certificate and route licences without which, Mr Callaghan said, their future was to be no more and all their efforts come to nothing. Sir Freddie Laker was a constituent, he added.

Mrs Thatcher: I can well understand Mr Callaghan's concern. As he says, I am a Freddie Laker fan. (Conservative cheers and Labour laughter). Whatever his difficulties now, Laker Airways has done a great service by having done in bringing the possibility of travel to people who never dreamt they would have it. (Conservative cheers).

As for the announcement that the licences may have been suspended, or that notice has been given that the licences may be suspended within six days, the operative word is "suspension".

Understand that suspension would be terminated if there was a reasonable possibility of Laker Airways being able to continue to operate Laker Airways as it was operated.

Decision on HM ship was difficult

The Government was fulfilling its election and Nato pledges on defence, Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said. She was about right on the subject, Mr (Preston, North, C) who referred to the concern among Conservative MPs at statements such as that made by Mr Callaghan recently suggesting that the RAF would be light by 100 planes by the end of this year.

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Atkins: Election pledges

Secretary of State for Defence (Mr John Nott) told the House over a year ago about the early stages of the development of the new defence programme.

We are fulfilling our election pledges. The new defence programme is being developed under the guidance of the Defence Council. We took over a programme of defence expenditure of £2,500m from the last Labour Government. This was up to £2,500m this year and next year it will be £2,700m.

Mr James Callaghan (Cardiff, South-East, Lab): The decision that the Government has reached to withdraw and pay off HMS Endeavour when she returns to the South Atlantic is an error that could have serious consequences. This is a state of mind that is not in line with the defence budget even though we have increased it substantially.

The defence capability of this country is being weakened. Indeed, therefore the Secretary of State felt there were other things on the defence budget which he gave, even greater priority.

Privacy Bill next session

For 500 snipers could obtain private and confidential information from personal medical, financial and police records, the Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher, said. She was about right on the subject, Mr (Preston, North, C) who referred to the concern among Conservative MPs at statements such as that made by Mr Callaghan recently suggesting that the RAF would be light by 100 planes by the end of this year.

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Traffic law changes to cut load on courts

TRANSPORT

Changes in the law on fixed penalties for certain road traffic offences would reduce the burden on the police and the courts so that they could devote more time to more serious offences, Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Transport, said while moving the second reading of the Transport Bill.

Under the Bill, the fixed penalty would be £20 for an offence which involved an obligatory endorsement and £10 in any other case, or half the maximum fine for the offence, whichever was the less.

Mr Howell said the Bill's fixed penalty provisions would mean a radical improvement in the penal system for traffic offences and go a long way to free the resources of the police and courts to tackle serious crimes.

The Bill also provided for the introduction of private capital into the National Bus Company and for the transfer of the assets of the bus and lorries to the private sector.

He said the changes represented a further step in the review of traffic laws promised when the Government came to office. Fixed penalties at present were a deterrent to the offender, bringing the system as a whole into disrepute.

The NBC, since its formation in the private sector, had benefited greatly from the 1980 Transport Act which removed the licensing restrictions on these services.

The result of this new freedom had been an unprecedented increase in the number of buses and coaches, a wider choice for the traveller and substantially lower fares on many routes.

Mr Howell said that the NBC would retain a significant share in this business and the Bill provided for the establishment of an employee shareholding scheme which would give the workforce a stake in the expansion of the coach market.

Similar opportunities existed in the case of National Holidays. Powers included in the Bill were designed to provide an opportunity for the private sector to take over the business.

It would not be possible to achieve this overnight, because each of these businesses had a long history and they were not companies as such and did not therefore at the moment constitute a viable sector which could provide a basis for the sale of shares.

Mr Howell said NBC to let him have a say in the running of the Express and National Holidays either jointly or as separate entities.

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More police

The number of police officers in England and Wales on December 31, 1981, was 119,575 compared with 118,000 in 1980. The number of police officers in England and Wales on January 1, 1982, was 120,000. The number of police officers in England and Wales on January 1, 1982

We're holding all our international direct dial charges,

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From February 1st the cost of calling the U.S.A. and Canada drops dramatically. For example, three minutes during Cheap Rate are down from £2.23 to £1.49 and, on Standard Rate, from £2.82 to £1.88.

The prices to all other countries remain at the level we established last November when we simplified our pricing policy.

A three minute call to virtually anywhere in Europe, for instance, will continue to cost just 99p

during Cheap Rate and £1.24 at other times. If you'd like full details, dial 100 and ask for Freephone 2500 who'll send you our leaflet.

British
TELECOM
International

US says it will not use chemical weapons first

From Nicholas Hirst, Washington, Feb 9

President Reagan has formally told Congress that he wishes to resume the development of chemical weapons, but has reaffirmed the United States policy against using them first.

The formal announcement that manufacture was planned came yesterday in a letter required by law to Mr. "Tip" O'Neill, the Speaker of the House.

In the absence of a verifiable treaty banning the use of chemical weapons the United States must deter their use by denying any significant advantage to an enemy, the President's letter said.

"Such a deterrence requires modernization of our retaliatory capability as well as improvement of our chemical warfare protective measures," the President wrote.

The President's decision to go ahead with the manufacture of a new nerve gas for chemical warfare was shadowed in *The Times* last week, is likely to renew concerns in Europe of the United States military intentions in the event of a conflict with the Soviet Union.

As with the neutron bomb, chemical weapons are most likely to be used in a European rather than an intercontinental war. But no decision has been made on their deployment and in his letter the President tried to allay fear by pointing to the United States' willingness to enter negotiations for a treaty to prevent their use.

Development would "provide strong leverage towards negotiating a verifiable agreement banning chemical weapons", he said, and

restated American policy not to use them first. No chemical weapons have been manufactured in the United States since 1969 when President Nixon announced the use of germ warfare that would not use chemical weapons unless attacked with them.

Last year, by a narrow margin of two votes in the Senate, the President won approval for \$20m (£10.7m) for new equipment to make nerve gas. His letter refers to production of "lethal binary chemical munitions".

Binary chemical weapons are those where two non-lethal chemicals are combined in a projectile while in flight to its target. On impact the projectile releases a lethal nerve gas.

In his defence budget for 1983 the President has asked for \$705m for chemical warfare compared with only \$532m in 1982 for protective measures such as gas detection systems and protective clothing. The new amount will clearly go to gearing up for production.

Geneva: In a bleak assessment of the disarmament negotiations outlook, Mr Eugene Rostow, director of the United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, announced that the Reagan Administration does not envisage a comprehensive ban on nuclear weapons tests (Alan McGregor writes).

He was addressing the 40-nation United Nations disarmament committee which for years has had the attainment of such a ban as the top item in its agenda. This was also the object of tripartite negotiations here between the United States,

Britain and the Soviet Union — which began in 1977 but have been in suspense for more than a year.

For the fact that nothing has been achieved in disarmament over the past decade, Mr Rostow blamed "the expansionist policy of the Soviet Union and the past build-up on which it is based" together with disregard of Article 2(4) of the United Nations Charter that forbids the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state.

In response to this build-up, the United States, its allies and many other nations had "reluctantly undertaken the burden of modernizing their armed forces in a belated effort to restore the military balance." A comprehensive test ban now would not help to reduce the nuclear weapons threat or to maintain the stability of the nuclear balance, he said.

"Troubling questions have arisen about Soviet compliance with international agreements concerning chemical and biological warfare," he added. New evidence from South-East Asia indicated use of prohibited lethal mycotoxins, "particularly cruel and inhumane weapons".

In replying, Mr Viktor Issaev, the Soviet delegate, assailed the "incredible" United States military budget as an "unbridled arms race in elaboration of further types of weapons for a first strike." The Americans were seeking qualitative superiority, with production of new nerve-gas weapons as part of the programme, he emphasized.

Leading article, page 11



EEC urban policy demanded

From Our Own Correspondent

Brussels, Feb 9
Civic leaders from several of Britain's largest and most depressed cities gave a stern warning today that unless the EEC quickly defined an urban policy there would be great disenchantment with the Community.

"They were giving evidence on the severe problems facing the inner cities during the first public hearing of the intergroup of local representatives of the political groups in the European Parliament in Brussels."

Over the past two days mayors and senior officials from cities throughout the Community have been discussing the need for a unified scheme for urban development with representatives from the Parliament. For the British representatives, however, the promise of more reports and proposals which emerged at the end of the meeting was not sufficient.

Mr Illyd Harrington, deputy leader of the Greater London Council, said after the meeting that it was time Europe gave a higher priority to spending on urban policies rather than on agriculture. Unemployment in the Stepney and Poplar areas of London was, at 25 per cent, the highest in Europe.

Mr Gaston Thoma, the President of the Commission, admitted that the Community did not have an urban policy as such.

Mr Harrington was less than impressed. "Unless they get down to defining an urban policy," he said, "it is going to be very hard to sustain any interest in this organization."

Solidarity's rights backed by Pope

From Peter Nichols, Rome, Feb 9

The Pope today insisted that the key to the solution of the Polish crisis lies in the regime's treatment of the Solidarity free trade union movement.

He was addressing a group of European trade union leaders including representatives of Solidarity. He said that the Polish trade union "is and remains an autonomous and independent union faithful to its initial inspiration, refusing violence even in the difficult situation in which it is living, intent on being a constructive force for the nation."

The problems of Solidarity were not simply a Polish affair but, in their origins and effects, the affair of the whole world of work in its entirety.

The Pope said: "the restitution of effective and total respect for the rights of working men and especially their right to a union, in fact already created and given legal authority, constitutes the only way out of this difficult situation."

Without this respect for human rights the normalization of life in society, the development of economic life and the safeguarding of culture in all its expressions remained impossible, he said.

The speech can be said to have added the intensity of feeling on the principal practical issues felt at the Vatican after the more generic appeal here on Sunday by the Polish Primate Archbishop Glemp for reconciliation.

In his sermon at the Polish church here, the Archbishop had talked of the Solidarity movement as sick, and saw the task of the church to help overcome this illness in the way Christ himself cured sickness.

The Pope said that he had in mind those men and women in Poland who had been harshly affected by martial law imposed two months ago; "those who have lost their lives, or have been wounded, arrested or detained, who have been judged and severely punished, who have lost their jobs because of their conviction."

He had in mind those who in the midst of great difficulties, preserved hope and remained faithful to the will to seek for Poland the road to justice, of the rights of man, of peace and of truth.

He reminded the trade unionists that a year ago he had received Mr Lech Walesa and other representatives of Solidarity at the Vatican. "At that meeting," he added, "there was present the head of the delegation of the Government of the Polish Republic of Poland for permanent working contacts with the Holy See."

"I expressed on that occasion my joy in knowing that on November 10 the statute of the free trade union Solidarity had been approved and thus the legitimacy of the existence and of the specific activities of this union had been recognized."

It escaped nobody, the Pope continued, that Solidarity was born at a difficult moment for Poland, in part as manifestation of the sense of responsibility of the workers, and of the desire to stop the specific responsibilities deriving from hard work.

Hopes were momentarily disappointed, the difficulties and obstacles created and the harsh restrictions imposed not only on members of Solidarity but on all the population, cannot make us forget that this union has acquired, and possesses always, the character of authentic representation of the workers, recognized and confirmed by the organs of power."

He made clear his feeling that the role of the union was not political in the sense of a search for political power in society, but in the nature of a general social importance.

The two speeches — of the Pope and of the Primate — are taken here to provide a composite picture of the limits and the areas of activity in the Catholic Church's work in Poland.

Poles turn East for more help

Warsaw, Feb 9. — Polish planners are turning to the East for more help in coping up the country's collapsing economy because of the West's firm reaction to military rule.

General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the military leader, has ordered his experts to work out by next month interim measures to reduce the excessive dependence of industry on imports, and a programme for expanding economic cooperation with Comecon, the Soviet bloc's trading community.

The turn away from the West has been dictated by economic sanctions and suspension of new credits by the United States and its allies, which have dealt severe blows to prospects of reviving flagging industrial and farm production, senior Polish officials say.

The Western measures, demonstrating disapproval of the suspension of civil rights and internment of thousands of government opponents, have left the Poles even shorter than they expected of hard currency to purchase raw materials and other supplies for their Western-equipped plants and food for the 36 million people.

The change of economic emphasis was embodied in a programme approved by the Council of Ministers last Friday.

General Jaruzelski told provincial officials in Warsaw yesterday that Poland was relying on further aid from communist countries to help to strengthen its economy.

He also called for a comprehensive, long-range plan for overcoming the crisis to be ready by the autumn. This would aim at restructuring the economy so that Poland regained its economic sovereignty and made better use of its own raw materials.

A plan for some of Poland's Comecon partners to supply idle production capacity in Polish industry, aimed already last year without any apparent significant result, has been revived and was advanced at a meeting of a Comecon planning commission in Havana last month, official press reports here said. Reuter.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Nixon fails to halt use of tapes

Washington — A United States appeals court has dismissed former President Nixon's appeal that the Federal government is acting illegally processing his White House tape recordings for eventual public screenings.

The court also ruled that the Government was using proper and constitutional methods to separate Mr. Nixon's "Diary" recordings, which will be returned to him on privacy grounds, from other recordings that will be made available to the public at 11 designated centres.

The panel's decision upheld a ruling by lower Federal Court Mr. Nixon had claimed that the processing violated his constitutional right to personal privacy, political privacy and the Presidential privilege of confidentiality.

The tape recordings played at the Watergate trials are already available for public listening in Washington but they constitute only a portion of Mr. Nixon's White House tape recordings.

Scuffling as spy leaves

Jakarta — Indonesian authorities had hoped to keep the expulsion of the Soviet assistant military attaché, Lieutenant Colonel S. P. Egerov, but were forced to make the incident public after a foreign spy scandal. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said, Colonel Egerov was ordered to leave within 24 hours. He was accused of espionage. But while he was being seen off at Halim airport on Saturday night, Indonesian security officials approached Mr. Alexander Pienko, chief representative of AeroBot, the Soviet airline, with a warrant for his arrest and a fight ensued.

Bonn exceeds Nato target

Bonn — The West German Government has announced that contrary to expectations the increase in its defence spending last year was higher than the Nato target of 3 per cent.

Herr Kurt Becker, the Government spokesman, disclosed that the increase was 5.2 per cent nominally and 3.4 per cent in real terms. Nevertheless, forecasts that the target will not be met in 1982 and doubts about the value of increased spending for its own sake have created a strong impression, particularly in the United States, that West Germany is dragging its feet in this field.

Robbers grow more deadly

New York — More robberies in New York are ending with murder, in what police describe as a growing wave of violence by criminals carrying out robberies and increasingly ready to shoot their victims.

A police analysis says robbery-related killings in the city increased by 36 per cent between 1976 and 1980 with 1,011 people killed by hand-guns in 1980, compared with 765 people in 1976. The national figures dropped slightly.

Picket broken by armed men

Caen — A private army led by the owner and carrying guns and tear gas picked broke through picketing strikers at a dairy near here to rescue 70,000 camembert cheeses.

The 125 staff at the dairy had planned to sell the cheeses because they claimed they had not been paid for January. The factory had been working the factory for a week, demanding a shorter working week. The workers have now started court proceedings.

Cosmetics blast kills three

Hanau, West Germany — At least three people were killed and six were missing when an explosion badly damaged a cosmetics factory at Bruchköbel, near here. Twenty were injured, 13 of whom were taken to hospital.

There were ten people inside the plant when the explosion occurred in the mixing room of Kosmetikfabrik Reinelt, a company producing hair sprays, liquid soap and body lotions. The injured included passers-by and staff arriving for the day shift. Herr Udo Mueller, the manager, said.

Jazzman in coma

Englewood, New Jersey — The jazz pianist Thelonious Monk was reported in a coma in an intensive care unit here after suffering a stroke, officials said.

Correction

A report of statistics issued by the Wine Development Board (February 2) stated incorrectly that sales of light wines were 15 per cent up. In fact the board said light wine sales went up but gave no figure.

Weinberger signs up reluctant Saudis

Muscat, Feb 9 — The United States and Saudi Arabia have agreed to establish a joint committee on military matters, Mr Caspar Weinberger the United States Defence Secretary announced today.

The group, called the Joint Committee for Military Projects, was set up after long and apparently tough negotiations. It had been long-sought by Washington, and United States officials said it was the Saudis' clearest move yet towards public military cooperation with United States.

One high official described it as "more formalized, structured relationship". Its establishment was announced by Mr Weinberger at a joint press conference in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia with Prince Sultan Ibn Abdulaziz the Saudi Defence Minister. Mr Weinberger then flew to Oman, the second stop on a nine-day, three-country Middle East tour.

While both sides said they were pleased with their talks, totalling more than 12 hours over three days, Prince Sultan did not mention the military committee and made clear they did not see eye to eye on every issue, particularly Israel.

The Prince said he had urged the Reagan administration to take a strong stand against "stupid action taken by Israel", apparently referring to recent Israeli moves such as its annexation of the Golan Heights and the bombing of Iraq's nuclear reactor.

"These are provocative actions and we hope that the administration of President Reagan will take a stand, because it has stronger relations with Israel," the prince said.

Mr Weinberger said only that he had raised with the prince "the vital necessity of the United States having warm friendly relationships with several countries in the Middle East and not confirming our friendships to one country."

A spokesman later said that Mr Weinberger had identified both Israel and Saudi Arabia as friends of America in the region.

American officials would not say, however, that they had signed a formal agreement in which Saudi Arabia pledged to respect conditions set by Congress last October when it agreed after a bitter battle to sell the Saudis five Awacs.

Mr Weinberger also said for the first time in public that American Awacs will remain on station in Saudi Arabia until the Saudis' own aircraft arrive in late 1985.

Although Prince Sultan said nothing about the new committee he appeared to play down military ties between the two countries, saying that a cooperative relationship was based not on "military endeavour" but areas such as economics and technology. — Reuter.

Jerusalem — Israel "will never descend from the Golan Heights," Mr Yitzhak Shamir the Foreign Minister said today in a stinging rejection of the United Nations resolution calling for an international boycott of the Jewish state following its annexation of the territory (ACP reports).

Euro-MPs move towards sanctions on S Africa

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Feb 9

The European Commission has been asked by the joint committee of the European Parliament and the Lomé countries to prepare a report analysing the effects of economic sanctions against South Africa. Arms and nuclear embargoes are already envisaged by the committee.

The request is just one part of a detailed and hard-hitting resolution agreed, with five abstentions among the 102 delegates, after a fact-finding mission to the front line states at the end of last month by a small mission from the joint committee.

The resolution says that "economic sanctions have to be incorporated into a programme of increasing pressure on South Africa". It adds that there should be an end to economic expansion and investment there and says that any state "which on account of major difficulties cannot apply such sanctions fully should at least agree to the gradual implementation of such measures".

The resolution was described by Signor Giovanni Baranini, the parliament group leader as "a great step forward in the fight against apartheid". It was the first time, he said, that a parliamentary institution had taken a common stance to establish a programme of action for the problems of southern Africa.

It was adopted in Salisbury, Zimbabwe, during the regular meeting between the parliament and Lomé states. While there it was announced that around £2m of EEC aid was to be made available to help South-West Africa refugees and for a training programme for Swapo youths in Denmark.

Copies are to be forwarded to the United Nations Secretary General, to the European Commission and to the Council of Ministers.

European trade with South Africa in 1980	
	Imports Exports
West Germany	697.3 1,019.4
Britain	747.9 935.9
France	429 386.8
Italy	594.1 239.1
Belgium/Luxembourg	1,017.1 102.2
Denmark	54.6 23.2
Ireland	6.9 9.1



Tommy Manotoc (left) and the Philippine Defence Minister face the press

Manotoc tells of rescue raid

From David Watts, Singapore, Feb 9

Tommy Manotoc, the Filipino sportsman who was kidnapped three weeks after a secret wedding to the daughter of President Marcos, reappeared in Manila today claiming that he had been held by communist guerrillas.

Mr Manotoc, a basketball coach and amateur golfer, appeared at a press conference flanked by Mr Juan Ponce Enrile, the Defence Minister, to tell of how he had been freed last night after a raid on the guerrillas' camp in the mountains east of Manila.

But his story did little to throw light on the circumstances of the case which had cast suspicion on the Marcos family who were opposed to his marriage to the President's daughter, Imme.

The couple were married in Arlington, Virginia, on December 4 after a clandestine ceremony in the Philippines. Mr Enrile told the press that in the attack by a special military group on alleged

brother claims was a forged signature on the first of the two notes; and psychics warning the family against certain actions.

The whole affair was made more intriguing by the fact that the Philippine authorities operated a virtual news blackout on the case. Despite claims by the President that there was a big manhunt in progress, basic investigation was not carried out.

Mrs Imelda Marcos appears to have been opposed to the marriage.

Mr Manotoc's brother, Ricardo, told *The Times* in an interview last week that the Socialists do not oppose big business and want to encourage new industrial investments in France in order to create jobs.

Several ministers have insisted that president Mitterrand's election slogan to "reconvert the domestic market" does not mean that France will block imports to protect its hard hit electronics, wood, toy, leather and domestic appliances industries.

French try to reassure business

Paris, Feb 9. — M Michel Rocard, the Minister of Planning and standard bearer of the right wing of the French Socialist Party, assured French and American industrialists today that the Government could control its Communist ministers.

"We are the first generation of Socialists not to be intimidated by the Communists. The day have gone when Socialists and Communists met and Communists always won," he told 300 businessmen at a conference on the Government's economic policies.

M Rocard, who last year challenged M Francois Mitterrand for the party's presidential nomination, said the French Communist Party was in decline despite the presence of four Communist ministers in the Cabinet.

Nine socialist ministers led by Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister have been driving home the message during the two-day meeting that the Socialists do not oppose big business and want to encourage new industrial investments in France in order to create jobs.

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Five Belfast men, three of them Canadian residents, arrested as they crossed the Whirlpool Bridge near Niagara Falls from Canada to the United States on Saturday were still in custody tonight. Mr Rodger Williams, the United States district attorney, was studying evidence supplied by the Depart-

IRA's smuggling route watched for 18 months

From Christopher Thomas, New York, Feb 9

United States immigration officials revealed today that they have kept watch on a highly sophisticated Provisional IRA smuggling route between America and Northern Ireland for at least 18 months. Senior Royal Ulster Constabulary officers in Northern Ireland apparently cooperated closely in helping to identify the people involved.

The United States Department of Immigration decided to expose the route. Exposure comes at a time when Mr Owen Carron, Republican MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone and Mr Danny Morrison, publicity officer for Provisional Sinn Fein in Belfast, are facing charges of entering the country illegally to the United States to face the charges on March 5.

Prominence is given to the exposure of the route because immigration officials said they had discovered a safe house in Toronto used by Irish Republicans. The procedure involved the use of other forged passports and legitimate passports containing false details and photographs.

Five Belfast men, three of them Canadian residents, arrested as they crossed the Whirlpool Bridge near Niagara Falls from Canada to the United States on Saturday were still in custody tonight. Mr Rodger Williams, the United States district attorney, was studying evidence supplied by the Depart-

ment of Immigration before deciding whether to charge the men with illegal immigration with intent to commit a crime.

At least a dozen smuggling operations by Irish Republicans have been allowed to pass unhindered in the past 18 months in order to piece together precise details of then operation.

A discovery of equipment capable of producing an almost exact replica of the official Irish stamp has delighted the Department of Immigration. One source said: "It was used to stamp the passport photographs. It would be difficult to tell it from the real thing. It was very professional."

The Department of Immigration established a special anti-smuggling unit in the Buffalo area close to the Canadian border in New York State 18 months ago after the arrest of an Ulster man

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Reagan defends his budget in the 'heartland'

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, Feb 9

"You have to get about 50 miles at least away from Washington to get to the real world", President Reagan declared to loud applause at a fund-raising function in Minneapolis last night. Making his first political tour since 1980, Mr Reagan decided to get well away from the capital, to the Middle West, to the snow-covered plains of Minnesota, Iowa and Indiana which comprise America's "heartland".

The main purpose of this trip is to sell to the nation his concept known as "new federalism" which was at the centre of last month's State of the Union address. Under this plan 43 federal programmes covering transport, education and community developments would be returned to the states.

However, in speeches delivered in Minneapolis and Des Moines, the President spent as much time defending his controversial 1983 budget proposals as he did promoting federalism.

President Reagan apparently believes that opposition to his budget, which called for massive cuts in social programmes and equally massive increases in defence spending, is coming mainly from "elitists" and "pundits" in Washington, New York and other eastern cities.

However, the noisy demonstrations which greeted him in Minneapolis and Des Moines showed there is also great concern among ordinary working people in the "heartland" about the cuts, defence increases and the President's failure to address himself to the country's most pressing problem: unemployment.

"The President seems to be completely out of touch with what life is like for us," said

Mr Robert Milner, one of the Minneapolis demonstration organizers. But the President was not moved by this display of dissatisfaction. In his speeches he made it clear he was not going to cut defence spending. "We will not back down from our commitment to make America strong enough to remain both free and at peace".

Nor was he going to give in to pressure to raise taxes because the tax cuts already approved by Congress were an essential part of his economic programme. Mr Reagan chose to come to the rural Middle West because most people around here vote Republican and his pledge to "return government to be governed" seemed certain to appeal to their sense of independence and local pride.

However, judging from initial reaction, the President will have to sell his "new federalism" theme with more verve and vigour if it is to supercede economic problems as the main issue in the November midterm elections.

President Reagan emphasized that his programme to restore the partnership between state, local and federal government was born from the same philosophy as his economic recovery plan. "They spring from an abiding faith in the American dream and in our ability to govern ourselves," he told the state legislature in Des Moines.

He emphasized how an increasing number of local matters, such as fire protection, police, pensions and pothole repairs, had been taken over by central government. Although the original intentions of big government had been good, the result had been overwhelming inefficiency and waste.

Nkomo followers taken to task over arms

From Stephen Taylor, Salisbury, Feb 9

Military leaders of the main opposition party in Zimbabwe have been summoned by Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, and asked to explain how tons of military hardware came to be hidden during last year's operation to disarm former guerrillas.

The weapons, sufficient to arm a brigade and including anti-aircraft guns, ground-to-air missiles and automatic rifles, were found last week on farms linked with the Patriotic Front of Mr Joshua Nkomo.

In an interview in Bulawayo yesterday, Mr Nkomo denied that he or his party were aware that arms had been hidden at the farms and said they might have been concealed "by some person to be discovered at a convenient time."

He said Mr Mugabe's speech at the weekend accusing the Patriotic Front of plotting against the ruling Zanu (PF) party was "unfortunate" and denied categorically that his party planned any rebellion.

Referring to the discovery of the arms on farms owned by the Patriotic Front, he said: "We have been in the hide and seek business for 30 years. After that we would not be caught with weapons in our own house."

Mr Nkomo's denials will not convince Zanu (PF) members that the quantity of

arms found could have been concealed on Patriotic Front land without the knowledge of at least some members of the organization.

Mr Mugabe, who discussed the matter with Mr Nkomo last Friday, will have left him and his military commanders in no doubt that all other hidden weapons must be given up if mistrust in their long-term motives is not to deepen.

An undisclosed number of Patriotic Front officials living on the farm have been arrested and the Army and police are continuing to search for arms in Matabeleland.

There has been no suggestion so far that the weapons were about to be used and it is understood that they are part of a vast arsenal of Zanu, the Patriotic Front military wing, only some of which have been handed over to authorities to be taken to munitions storage dumps in Salisbury and Bulawayo.

The remainder was concealed during periods of recrimination, such as the time when fighting between supporters of the Patriotic Front and the ruling Zanu (PF) party last year.

After the ceasefire in the guerrilla war in 1979 quantities of arms supplied to Zanu, the Soviet Union and the United States were taken by rail across the border.

Strike ban under fire in India

From Kuldip Nayyar, Delhi, Feb 9

The Communists are the first to criticize the Central Government's decision to declare 16 categories of industries as essential services under the National Security Act.

The industries include road, rail, water and air transport and telecommunication services. Forty-six private and public undertakings were declared as essential services a few months ago.

Workers in essential services cannot go on strike and those who try can be detained without trial. The new decision of the Government was necessitated by a Supreme Court judgment that no one could be held without trial on charges of prejudicing supplies and services unless what was considered essential by the Government was made known to the public in advance.

Defence services, defence production and customs services are also covered by the central Government's decision.

The Communists have said that the Government was out to suppress ruthlessly the fundamental right of the working class to strike.

Meanwhile, Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, has said that chief executives who fail to show adequate performance in the public sector should be removed. Her emphasis is on production and she has spoken out against all forms of disruption.

Odinga hits out at government

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi, Feb 9

Mr Oginga Odinga, a former Vice-President of Kenya, who has been barred from political office since forming a short-lived opposition party in 1966, today publicly attacked the Government's economic policies and its agreement to grant military facilities to the United States.

Kenya agreed last year to provide supply and storage facilities for American naval forces in the Indian Ocean and has long had close and friendly relations with the British Army, which has carried out training operations in Kenya on several occasions.

Mr Odinga was speaking at a press conference in Nairobi today. He had been attacked by Mr Stanley Oloitiptip, the Minister of Local Government and a member of the Masai tribe, for his role in his own Luo tribe.

Criticizing Mr Oloitiptip for allegedly failing to give clear leadership to Kenyans, Mr Odinga said there had been "systematic plunder" of Kenya's resources, and there was now mass unemployment.

"Attempts to expel away this sorry state of affairs in terms of high prices and international inflation are unacceptable."

Expressing regret at difficulties in Kenya's relations with neighbouring African countries, he said that the granting of military facilities to a foreign power without the consent of the people had helped to erode those relations.



Survivors waiting on the wings of the stricken aircraft and, below, an aerial photograph showing the runway.

Airliner crashed 300 yds short of the runway

By Our Foreign Staff

"All is normal", the Japanese airlines pilot said yesterday as he made his final swing across Tokyo Bay before landing. Then the radio went dead.

A playback of the recorded conversation between the Hameda airport control tower and Captain Seiji Katagiri ended with a voice in the tower vainly calling for him to make contact.

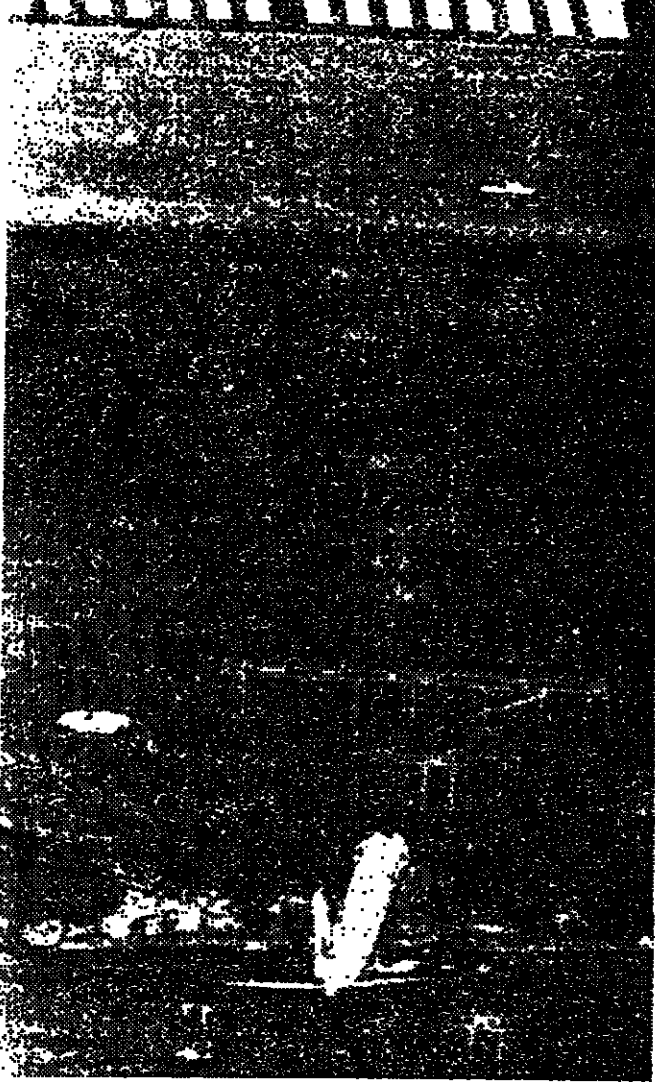
The JAL DC8 aircraft carrying 174 passengers and crew crashed 300 yards short of the runway. Twenty-four people died and 150 were injured, 78 of them seriously. The flight deck was sheared off and rammed back into the fuselage.

About a mile from touchdown the aircraft suddenly lost height, and hit the sea plunging across the surface snapping landing lights like matchsticks.

Captain Katagiri is in a serious condition in hospital. The co-pilot and other crew all survived but were badly injured.

All but one of the passengers on board the flight from Fukuoka city were Japanese. The foreigner was an official of Korean Airlines, JAL said. Fishing boats and inflatable rescue craft rushed to the stricken aircraft slowly sinking in shallow water. The survivors struggled on to the wings to be rescued.

Fire department helicopters trailing slings and nets took turns to lift them off. Eight hours after the crash the last person on board, an unidentified crew member, was winched to safety.



Survivors waiting on the wings of the stricken aircraft and, below, an aerial photograph showing the runway.

Rescuers said an engineer of the DC8 may have sucked in one of the many seabirds which were on the approach beacon. But Miss Eiko Ito, a stewardess aged 24, said she heard no engine sounds to indicate a bird strike.

"The plane was in a normal attitude for landing", she said, adding that she was knocked to the floor by the impact of the crash and struggled to her feet as water rushed in.

A lorry driver, Mr Hides Ishihara said: "The aircraft suddenly dropped and struck some semi-submerged landing lights. It slid across the water striking other metal lamps and came to rest in shallow water about 300 yards short of the runway."

The commander of an All Nippon Airways Tristar which landed ahead of the DC8 said the weather was clear and he experienced no problems with the wind.

Japan Airlines has enjoyed an accident free record for the past 10 years since one of its DC8 airliners crashed at Moscow airport in November, 1972, killing 62 people.

Japan's worst air disaster occurred in 1971 when an Air Force fighter crashed into a Boeing 727 in mid-air, killing 162 passengers and crew.

Manila: A chartered DC3 aircraft carrying Japanese tourists and Filipino escorts crashed in thick clouds into a mountain in central Philippines yesterday killing six people and injuring six critically.

Amnesty condemns Belgrade

By Richard Dowden

Nearly 600 people were prosecuted for criticizing the Yugoslav Government in 1980, almost double the number in 1979, according to Amnesty International.

Already in 1981, says the human rights organization, more than 800 people have been convicted of political offences, mainly connected with the disturbances in the Kosovo region in March last year.

Amnesty's report on Yugoslavia, published today, claims that many political prisoners were convicted under loosely-framed articles in the constitution which make it possible "to imprison individuals for exercising constitutionally guaranteed rights in ways disapproved of by the authorities".

According to the Federal Public Prosecutor 94 per cent of political crimes brought before the courts in 1980 were verbal offences. Other catch-all phrases in the constitution quoted in the report are "hostile propaganda" and "maliciously representing conditions in Yugoslavia".

Under the latter phrase Dr Fajno Tudjman, the Croatian historian, was tried in Zagreb last year for giving three interviews to foreign journalists in which he said that Croatia's economic interests were not guaranteed.

He was convicted and sentenced to prison for three years with a five-year ban on public expression. His case is pending appeal.

Father Nedjo Janjic, a 23-year-old Serbian orthodox priest, is serving a four and a half year prison sentence for inciting religious and racial hatred. He had sung nationalist songs at his son's christening.

The report also says that emigrants have been kidnapped and murdered, probably by the Yugoslav secret police; that prison conditions are poor; there are isolated cases of physical and mental torture of prisoners; and there is discrimination against dissidents in employment.

Yugoslavia: Prisoners of Conscience (Amnesty International, Tower House, 8 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HF).

German dons seek racial purity

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, Feb 9

A group of West German university professors have called for action to stop the infiltration of the German people by foreign workers.

In terms reminiscent of the Nazis the 15 professors issued a manifesto calling for the founding of a politically and ideologically independent association for the preservation of the German people and its spiritual identity. They suggested the Government should "Strike at the root of the evil" by improving the foreign workers' life, through development aid in their home countries "and not here with us".

They did not say how the repatriation of West German students and foreign residents was to be achieved. But the foreigners' return would bring the country not only social but also ecological relief, according to the professors.

The manifesto was drawn up last year by a group of professors calling themselves the Heidelberg Circle and circulated among colleagues with a request for signatures and financial support. Not yet intended for publication, it was leaked to the press apparently by left-wingers who found a copy in a Bonn telephone box.

The language was chillingly similar to the racist jargon of the early Nazi era. "Peoples", it said "Are living systems of a higher order with different characteristics — characteristics that are passed on genetically and by tradition. It speaks of the well-known ethnic catastrophes of polycultural societies".

"Every people, including the German people, has a natural right to its own identity and characteristics in its own living area, only vibrant and intact German families can preserve our people for the future".

The professors insisted that they firmly support the democratic constitution and that they were against any form of nationalism, racialism or political extremism.

Evidently upset by the adverse reaction in the press 11 of the professors issued a statement yesterday saying the text of the manifesto had merely been a provisional one. The adverse criticism they claimed was the result of "a defamation campaign by radical leftists".

Nevertheless, they insisted that there would be very serious conflicts in West Germany if the Government did not tackle the problem.

The manifesto has confirmed the Government's growing fears that the numbers of foreign workers and dependents here will breed racialism and social tensions without wise handling. Brought in to supply much needed manpower during the years of the economic miracle, the foreigners are less welcome in a recession with the jobless figures creeping up to two million.

There is already much resentment among the German neighbours in the working class areas where they tend to congregate. A particular problem are the huge numbers of Turks, who with their very different customs and traditions, are less well integrated than European foreign workers and are assimilated into German society.

Carrington impressed by Asean

From David Watts, Singapore, Feb 9

Lord Carrington ended his tour of the five countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) in Singapore tonight more aware of the complexities of the struggle for Cambodia. Encouraged by the dynamism and stability of Asean, but with little prospect that difficulties with Malaysia will be eased in the medium-term.

The Foreign Secretary's talks in the five capitals have been with the heads of state and of government of each one and have covered the whole gamut of interests from trade and investment to the East-West power balance.

Fortunately he was in the area just as the Khmer Rouge rejected proposals to join the loose coalition of Khmer oppositionists. Thus he has had the unusual experience of watching Asean policy at first hand begin to shape for the next stage of the struggle for the future of Cambodia.

From the refugee camps on the Thai-Cambodian border to the high-tech technology of an exhibition of offshore oil technology in Singapore, where Britain was the largest exhibitor, the Foreign Secretary has seen Asean and confronted Whitehall's most pressing regional problem — trading relations with Malaysia.

He did not expect to achieve a breakthrough and, judging by the generally hostile reaction of the Malaysian press to the proceedings, it will take a long time before there is any prospects that Mahathir Mohamed, the Prime Minister, will consider lifting his prohibition on government purchase of British goods when there are comparable alternatives.

Not even the Archangel Gabriel could have changed Dr Mahathir's attitude in an hour, the Foreign Secretary said in a radio interview today. At best, the British government has bought the problems out in the open and clarified at least some of the misunderstandings.

Judging from Dr Mahathir's non-acceptance of a number of Lord Carrington's explanations of key irritants,

Letter from Brussels

Obstinate lifts test Community spirit

It is easier to get in to the European Commission building than it is to get up it, or for that matter down it. This basic fact of Community life is something which nine Portuguese politicians and officials found out the hard way recently when they were stuck in the lift at the Berlaymont Building.

It is possible that during their 25 minutes jammed between floors they had time to reflect on whether they were being given a pointed hint that their negotiations to join the EEC were likely to end up nowhere.

Symbolically enough, one report claimed they were stuck between the tenth and eleventh floors in the Ten's administrative headquarters.

It takes time, patience and understanding to come to terms with the eccentrically obstinate lifts which are meant to deliver Eurocrats, secretaries and Commission hangers-on to the appropriate level of their working life.

Commission lifts come in two sizes. There is the compact six-person (average 80 kilogramme or 12½ stone each) variety which lines the back of the entrance hall. It was in one of these that the Portuguese came to grief. Nine of them weighed a sufficient amount over the statutory 480 permitted kilograms that the struggling lift ground to a halt.

Then in the hallways behind the entrance foyer lurk the giant economy 18-person (average 77.7 kilogramme each) variety which stop — from time to time — at the actual floors.

The small lifts tend to be the more popular, not because the average harmonized Community lift passenger weighs 80 rather than 77.7 kilograms, but because they are slightly more accessible. They also have green strip-lights round their doors, rather like those round a sleazy nightclub entrance, which flash on and off when they arrive, which is not often.

The arrival of a Commission lift is a relatively rare occurrence. Indicator lights chart their progress as they climb and descend the building, leapfrogging each other from floor to floor. But it would delight a man from Ladbroke's if he could gather in the bets on which one is likely to arrive first.

The long wait for a lift means there is usually a crowd in excess of six, or with a cumulative weight above 480 kilograms.

Ian Murray

Nunn wins opening chess game

By Harry Golombek

The English players got off to a fine start in the West European zonal tournament which began at Marbella, Spain, on Monday. The event is the first step in a series of qualifying tournaments for the world championships, and out of the 22 contestants at Marbella, three go on to play in the inter-zonal contest later this year.

Both English players won their games in Group A; the grandmaster John Nunn beating Gomez (Andorra) and Nigel Short beating Seret of France.

Other results: Langeweg (Netherlands) 1; Doyle (Ireland) 0; Van der Wiel (Netherlands) 1; Galego (Spain) 0; McNab (Scotland) 0; Fernandez (Spain) 1; Ligerink (Netherlands) had the bye.

English players were also successful in group B where the grandmaster Michael Stean beat Van der Sterren (Netherlands) and Mark Hebden won against Klauer of Luxembourg.

The third English player, the international master Jonathan Mestel, is clearly winning in his twice-adjourned game against Meuldere (Belgium).

Other results: Rivas (Spain) beat I. C. Jones (Wales); the game between the grandmaster Donner (Netherlands) and Blow (Jersey and Guernsey) was postponed because Donner was indisposed. Sanz (Spain) had the bye.

The best of the two sides could manage at the end of their meeting was to express the hope that it would help to improve matters. There were, however, no plans for further meetings and the matter now rests with the Malaysians, who have before them the British proposal that a joint commission be set up in an attempt to anticipate future problems and neutralize them before they become unmanageable.

The resolution of the other principle issue, in Lord Carrington's talks, the presence of Vietnamese troops in Cambodia, could well take years.

At his final press conference tonight he hinted strongly that the countries of Asean might start concentrating on the "third force" idea of building up the Khmer People's National Liberation Front of Mr Son Sann and Prince Sihanouk's Moulineka.

The spokesman, who would not be named said that the three newspapers were not distributed to Turkish subscribers as a "precaution" in line with a recent military edict which forbids reprinting by the local media of foreign press news items unfavourable to Turkey.

A martial law command spokesman in Istanbul said they had issued no orders in connection with the distribution of foreign newspapers.

The Hachette spokesman would not say what it they found objectionable in the latest editions of the three newspapers. The company runs bookstores in Istanbul and Ankara and handles the distribution throughout Turkey of most foreign publications.

Since the Army ousted the civilian government in Turkey 16 months ago, restrictions have been placed on the Turkish press. A military communiqué issued in June, 1981 bans all political controversy and discussion of past, present and future, this applies to foreign politicians as well as to the media.

However, there is no pre-publication censorship. Newspaper editors have been advised to exercise "self-control" along guidelines set by the military. —AP.

EEC court rules on pop record

From Our Own Correspondent, Brussels, Feb 9

Two versions of the Bee Gees pop group's record "Spirits Having Flown" have been occupying the attention of judges at the European Court recently. After an involved hearing the court today decided which of the two should be sold in European shops and which should be excluded.

The dispute began when the British company RSO handed over its British rights in the record to Polydor, one of its subsidiaries, and at the same time licensed two Portuguese companies to manufacture the same record.

The Portuguese records were significantly cheaper than those being made in Britain and a British importer, Simons, bought the cheaper version and imported it into Britain.

Polydor and RSO claimed that the Portuguese records were breaking the law and asked for a ban on their sale. The British Court of Appeal ruled that marketing the Portuguese records constituted a violation of the Copyright Act.

The European Court decided that the Portuguese records could not benefit from the rights of free circulation of goods available to records made in the member states. Therefore RSO and Polydor were correct in opposing their sale.

Distributor bans sale of The Times in Turkey

Ankara — In a move described as "precautionary self-censorship," two British newspapers, and a French paper were not distributed in Turkey by their importing agent. A spokesman for the agent, the Turkish Hachette, listed the papers as *The Guardian*, *The Times* and *Le Matin*.

The spokesman, who would not be named said that the three newspapers were not distributed to Turkish subscribers as a "precaution" in line with a recent military edict which forbids reprinting by the local media of foreign press news items unfavourable to Turkey.

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Minister's reasonable use of Draconian power upheld

Regina v Secretary of State for the Environment, Ex parte Norwich City Council

Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Kerr and Lord Justice May

[Judgment delivered February 9]

The Secretary of State for the Environment did not misdirect himself in fact or law but acted fairly and legally in deciding to exercise the Draconian power given to him by section 23 of the Housing Act 1980 to take over the management of a local authority's council houses to tenants who had difficulty in exercising the right to buy given to them by the Act.

The Court of Appeal, in reserved judgments, dismissed an appeal by Norwich City Council from the decision of the Divisional Court (Lord Justice Donaldson and Mr Justice Robert Goff) on December 18, 1981 (The Times, December 19) of an application for an order of certiorari to quash a decision of the Secretary of State for the Environment by notice of December 3, 1981, to use his powers of intervention under section 23 of the Housing Act 1980 in respect of Norwich Council tenants who had claimed to exercise the right to buy council houses given them by the Act.

Section 23 of the 1980 Act provides: "Where it appears to the Secretary of State that... he may have difficulty in exercising the right to buy... he may, after giving the landlord notice in writing of his intention so to do and while the notice is in force, use his powers under... this section."

By subsection (3) while such a notice is in force the Secretary of State "may do such things as appear to him necessary or expedient... to enable tenants to exercise the right to buy."

Leave to appeal to the House of Lords was refused.

Mr Nigel MacLeod, QC, and Mr Charles Cross, QC, for the city council; Mr Simon D. Brown and Mr John Laws for the Secretary of State.

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the case raised party politics but the issues were only to be decided according to law. Local authorities owned a great number of council houses in need, they had received housing subsidies for them, they had become the subject of much controversy.

The Housing Act 1980 gave council tenants a right to buy their houses at a big discount, sometimes at half price. Some local authorities thought that it was undesirable because they were taken out of their housing stock so that they were no longer available for those desperately in need of accommodation.

Norwich City Council owned about 25,000 dwellings, about half of all those in the city. When the 1980 Act came into force many tenants claimed the right to buy. But there seemed to be endless delays.

The tenants became upset and complained to the Secretary of State about the delay. After trying without much success to get the city council to hurry things up, he took the drastic action of taking all the sales out of the council's hands and into his own hands. The council disputed his right to do this, and asked for his order to be quashed.

The Act of 1980 gave tenants of three years standing the right to buy their council houses and to leave the whole or part of the price on mortgage with the council. A tenant could serve a notice on the council claiming to exercise his right to buy.

Within four weeks the council had to admit or deny the right to buy. If the right was admitted the council had to sell as soon as practicable to the tenant at the price at which the council's opinion the tenant was entitled to buy the house (section 20). If there was any question about the value of the house it was to be determined by the district valuer (section 11).

Section 23 gave a most unusual power to the Secretary of State. If tenants had difficulty in buying their houses he could take the whole process out of the hands of the council and conduct all the sales himself.

In October 1980, the first month when the Act was in force, 452 tenants claimed the right to buy, in the first year it was 900.

There were complaints of delays. It was said that the council did not get the valuations done quickly enough and when they were made, they were too high.

Many tenants appealed to the district valuer and the appeals were reduced. By May 1981, the council had admitted in 803 cases that the tenants had the right to buy, but not in 111 cases. The council had the right to buy completed and the council had only stated a price after valuation in 35 cases.

In May 1981 the Department of the Environment took up the matter with the Norwich City Council. Meetings were held and letters exchanged. The council made some improvements but never enough to satisfy the Secretary of State.

The Secretary of State said the time taken to make valuations. The council said that they had not the staff to make more than a few valuations a week and could not divert other staff to make the valuations.

The Secretary of State said that the district valuer could be employed to make the valuations. The council said that that was not legitimate.

Covenants which the council wanted put in the conveyances were said to be unduly onerous to the tenants. The council said that the majority of the conveyances had to be on the large scale of 1/500; whereas the Secretary of State said that the scale of 1/1250 was quite sufficient.

The Secretary of State said that all outstanding valuations should be completed by February 1982 but the council could not promise them before June.

The Secretary of State took the view that the council's delays were so serious that he would be justified in using his powers under section 23 of the 1980 Act.

Section 23 (8) authorized the Secretary of State to require the purchase moneys without paying interest thereon.

Section 23 (9) authorized him to recover the costs from the council as a debt. There might be

a large sum which would have to be borne by the Norwich City Council.

The Secretary of State took the view that the conduct of the Norwich City Council might amount to "wilful misconduct" so that they could be surcharged under section 162 of the Local Government Act 1972.

On October 23, 1981, sent to all members of the council, a meeting was held on November 5, 1981, attended by councillors and officers of the council, the members of Parliament for both the Norwich divisions, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Department of the Environment.

The Secretary of State said that the council should consider putting to him a new timetable, should go back to the district valuer and advise all members of the personal consequences they faced.

On November 11, 1981, the council set out their own timetable, saying that they were trying to get a balance between the need not to increase their staff costs and the various claims on their resources in the housing and employment fields, which could not be neglected. They said that they would use the services of the district valuer who would conflict with his appellate role under the Act.

The council's letter concluded that the council could not continue except on the basis of cooperation between central and local authorities, with a tradition that the Secretary of State made reasonable requests and a local authority made reasonable responses in due time to the individual circumstances.

On December 3, 1981, the Secretary of State made his formal order under section 23 of the Act. On the same day the council applied to the High Court to quash his decision. On December 18 the Divisional Court refused the application. The city council appealed.

The charges against the council were: (1) slowness in making valuations; (2) delay in making price valuations; (3) delay caused by "counseling" interviews; (4) over-high valuations; (5) unreasonably onerous covenants; (6) poor performance compared with other local authorities; (7) failure to employ district valuer; (8) insisting on assistance from the district valuer; (9) failure to exchange his house for another would lose his right to buy.

The court had to consider a most coercive power in a minister of Crown, a "default power". It enabled a minister, if he considered that a local authority was in default, to take steps to ensure that the function was properly performed.

This default power enabled the central government to interfere with the local authority's functions. Local government was such an important part of the Constitution that the courts should be vigilant to ensure that the default power was not exceeded or misused.

Whenever the wording of the statute permitted the courts should be vigilant to ensure that the default power should not be exercised except in accordance with the rules of natural justice. Board of Education v Rice (1911) A.C. 149, 150, per Lord Balfour (1914) A.C. 41.

The minister was dismissing the local authority for default in carrying out its duties and was not acting in a supervisory capacity. Fairness required that that should not be done unless they were told what was alleged and they had an opportunity of answering it.

The minister's decision was open to judicial review. If he did not act in good faith, or if he acted on extraneous considerations, or if he was influenced by bias, or if he misdirected himself in fact or in law, the court in a proper case would set aside his decision. Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (1977) A.C. 997.

The city council were under a duty to state the price to the tenants as soon as practicable; and to carry through the sale as soon as that reasonably could be done. If the council failed to do so effectively and expeditiously, the Secretary of State could exercise his default power conferred by section 23 after telling the council of his reasons against them and hearing what they had to say. Even then he should not make the default order unless the default was unreasonable or inexcusable.

To stop misuse of the power of the central government over the elected representatives of the people, the minister's default power was subject to control by the courts.

Many councils in order to state a price under section 10 at which they were to sell the council house to the tenant, had consulted the district valuer as the outset. But the Norwich City Council said that that was not legitimate.

It should not be employed to make the initial valuation, but he would sit on appeal to make the final valuation. "Justice should not only be done but should manifestly and undoubtedly be seen to be done." (R v Sussex Justices (1924) 1 K.B. 203, 209). But that principle, like natural justice, must not be carried to extremes.

The district valuer's ordinary work was to make valuations for the rating list.

There his practice was for the district valuer to be done by a senior officer quite distinct from the one who made the initial valuation.

The concern of the court was, as always, to protect the individual from the misuse of power by those in authority. The individual here was the tenant, to whom Parliament had given the right to buy.

Justice was in fact done by the view that the council's delays were so serious that he would be justified in using his powers under section 23 of the 1980 Act.

Section 23 (8) authorized the Secretary of State to require the purchase moneys without paying interest thereon.

Section 23 (9) authorized him to recover the costs from the council as a debt. There might be

his own home. Yet he had met with intolerable delay, which was the responsibility of the Norwich City Council.

The council had acted, or failed to act, in complete good faith; but they were mismanaged. They were badly advised on many matters.

No one could excuse himself for his own mistakes by saying he did it on bad advice. Federal Commerce & Navigation Co Ltd v Molten Alloys Inc (1978) Q.B. 327, 329. The council had shown too little concern for the rights of their tenants.

The statute had provided a remedy by giving the Secretary of State power to make a default order. That should only be used after careful consideration.

The Secretary of State had given his order within his statutory powers. Pending the present proceedings the Secretary of State had allowed the Norwich City Council to carry on with the selling of the houses. That held out hope for a solution.

If the city council would agree to use the district valuer to make the initial valuations and speeded up their procedure so as to avoid further complaints, there might be no need for the Secretary of State to act upon his order. But that order was good. The appeal should be dismissed.

LORD JUSTICE KERR agreed with the decision of the Divisional Court. Section 23 of the 1980 Act envisaged a direct confrontation between the central and local authorities in relation to the administration of part 1 of the Act. It was the court's duty to rule on the legality of the minister's intervention. That involved no judgment of a political nature.

Whether or not it was right to describe section 23 as a penal power, it was a power to punish. It required a strict construction so far as its terms permitted.

It had clearly been framed by Parliament in such a way as to maximize the power of the Secretary of State and to minimize any power of review by the courts.

The governing words were "Where it appears to the Secretary of State... the determinative factor was the view of the Secretary of State in the view of the local authority; not an abstract standard of reasonableness."

Two authorities gave the most helpful guidance on the interpretation of section 23: Secretary of State for Education v Aylesford (1972) 2 Q.B. 453, 455; and Secretary of State for Education v Metropolitan Borough Council (1977) A.C. 1014, 1047, per Lord Wilberforce.

The position under section 23 was different to that in the Tameside case: greater power was conferred on the minister than under section 68 of the Education Act 1944.

Section 23 of the 1980 Act might well be without precedent in such legislation. His Lordship was driven to the conclusion that the question which the court must ask itself was: "Provided the minister has properly directed his mind, can he reasonably conclude on December 3, 1981, that council tenants in Norwich had in fact, had, or might have, difficulty in exercising their right to buy effectively and expeditiously?"

The council could not be regarded as having acted unreasonably in approaching their obligations under the Act. But that was not the question under section 23 where the relevant words were entirely general and not related to any timetable in any other section. Rather, the words "expeditiously" were geared to the view of the minister.

Looking at the history, there was overwhelming evidence that the council's policy was to delay the implementation of the Act was not merely one of lack of enthusiasm but what might be called a deliberate intention only to be expected in a highly political piece of legislation, the council and the housing committee had to party lines.

Section 23 was that it did not require any prior process of consultation or warning.

No doubt, however, the minister's decision was subject to judicial review. The district valuer had caused his Lordship the greatest anxiety. But the affidavit sworn on behalf of the minister said that his decision to intervene was based on the council's reluctance to use the services of the district valuer for section 10 purposes.

Any challenge to the good faith of the minister had been expressly disclaimed before the court. In agreement with the court, the council had agreed to use the services of the district valuer as the outset.

LORD JUSTICE MAY, also agreeing, said that the wording of section 23 (1) was clear. The Secretary of State had to consider whether the council was in default in exercising their right to buy effectively and expeditiously.

His Lordship would not dissent from the proposition that the more Draconian the powers that were given to ministers, or others, by statute or the rules of a club, the more carefully should be the person seeking to exercise those powers.

The Secretary of State must act fairly and reasonably in exercising the powers given him by section 23 but it did not follow that a Secretary of State was only entitled to intervene when the relevant local authority was acting unreasonably, that was to say acting in a way no other reasonable local authority would act.

The general principle that justice must not only be done but should manifestly and undoubtedly be seen to be done was well known, but it was not to be applied without further thought to the circumstances of any particular case. See per Lord Justice Sachs in In re Ferguson Press Ltd (1971) Ch 388, 403.

It was reasonable for local authorities to use the services of the district valuer's office as suggested by the Secretary of State. Until the section 11 stage was reached, there had not been a determination to be appealed from.

Solicitors: Sharpe, Pritchard & Co for Mr R. Bamford, Norwich; Treasury Solicitor.

Two particular trials which stick in the mind symbolize the inconsistencies and contradictions manifest in the operation of current rape laws.

In the first case, a teenager was allegedly raped by a young man whom she knew as a friend. He was tried at the Old Bailey, and his evidence was that the complainant agreed to have sex with him and that, in any case, it was well known in the local community that she was promiscuous and easy.

At the trial, she had to suffer the following interrogation from the judge, Mr Justice Kilner-Brown: "How old were you at the time of this incident?"

"I was 16½."

"Had you had sex with anyone before this?"

"Yes."

"With one boy, or more than one boy?"

"More than one."

"And at the time, were you going steady with one boy?"

"Yes."

"So whatever may have been your reputation, were you going steady and was all that finished with?"

A couple of months earlier, in the very same court, a similar case was up before another judge. There, the young man wanted to give evidence of what he had heard about the alleged victim's past sexual history.

The girl was 14 and, according to the defendant, she had been involved in various sexual activities with a number of boys at a party. The Recorder of London, Mr James Miskin, who was trying that case, did not allow evidence counselled to cross-examine the complainant about any aspect of her sexual history. The jury had to reach their verdict without any knowledge of the alleged victim's reputation.

Leaving aside the fact that the jury acquitted in the first case and convicted in the second, the complainants' experience of the whole court procedure will have been very different. The kind of treatment that rape victims receive in court depends on a number of factors, including the attitude and sensitivity of the trial judge.

Unfortunately, in my experience, the first approach illustrated here is rather more prevalent than the second.

In the context of a study on the law of rape, I attended some 50 contested trials and 50 uncontested trials. I pleaded "guilty" at the Central Criminal Court in 1978-79. Press reports usually create the impression that gang rapes are not only particularly horrific, but also relatively rare. The reality of that turned out to be rather different: although these cases were undoubtedly horrific, they were by no means rare. During the year I spent at these courts, one in three trials involved two or more defendants.

My overall impression was that although the law works well for certain types of rape offences, it is unsatisfactory for the vast majority of cases which involve the issue of consent. The rape victim's harassment by the court seemed reduced to a minimum in cases which contained no evidence of physical force, the "ideal" rape. Here the incident tended to be seen as an explosive sexual encounter between total strangers, the offender being a dangerous psychopath — rather like the Tottenham rapist.

The "ideal" victim was either sexually inexperienced, or at least respectable — virginity virtually guaranteed a conviction. In any case, she did everything in her power to resist the attack and had no physical injuries to prove it. There seemed to be an assumption that anything other than such an offence was not rape at all. As one lawyer cautioned the jury: "This was the case of someone being attacked in a dark alley by some sex-starved young man. These people knew each other."

The "ideal" cases, however, only represented about a third of the contested rapes tried at the Old Bailey during the period of my inquiry. Most defendants involved in these pleaded "guilty". My observation was that about 80 per cent of contested trials did not belong to this category. In the majority of cases, the defendant denied the rape and the complainant was known to each other and the standard defence was one of consent.

Public concern with the protection of the rape victim and attempts at reducing the trauma involved in attending court have not led to much improvement in practice as far as these rapes are concerned.

The last major public outcry on the law of rape in 1975 (triggered, as the current one, by a number of disturbing media reports of grossly unfair attitudes to the victim and lenient sentences for the rapist) led to the appointment of the Advisory Group on the Law of Rape and subsequently, to seemingly changes in the law.

The Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 1976 was expressly designed to protect the complainant from publicity as well as from hostile and distressing cross-examination in court. Limitations were placed on the introduction of evidence regarding her previous sexual experience. It is now up to the trial

The 1976 Sexual Offences Act was designed to protect rape victims from unnecessary cross-examination about their previous sexual experience. But

is it working in practice? Zsuzsanna Adler sat in on 50 Old Bailey rape cases last year to find out. This is her disturbing report.



Mr Justice Kilner-Brown and the Recorder of London, Mr James Miskin, QC: different views of how the law should be interpreted.

judge to decide whether or not such evidence is relevant in any particular case. Not surprisingly, wide discretion has led to a very uneven implementation of the law. I found that while some judges adhered to the spirit of the 1976 Act, others tended to interpret it in rather narrow ways and sometimes disregarded it altogether.

Judge Brian Gibbons voiced his disapproval of the Act in no uncertain terms: "I think it might be unfair, perhaps even more so in an older woman, to prevent cross-examination on sexual proclivities, but that is what Parliament wants..."

This wretched section overturns many of our habits in criminal trials. I think it might be unfair, perhaps even more so in an older woman, to prevent cross-examination on sexual proclivities, but that is what Parliament wants...

Leaving aside the strictly legal considerations involved in the operation of the 1976 Act, it was clear from my observation that individual judges had blatantly different approaches to complainants in rape cases. At some point in the course of giving evidence, most women became tearful or even acutely distressed. Attitudes by judges, again, were very variable. The majority were fairly sympathetic, particularly when the victim was young, and adjourned for a short while to give her time to recover.

Others were not only unsympathetic, but downright hostile. In one case, a 17-year-old complainant, who had been assaulted by two men she did not know, was having great difficulty in telling the court what had happened to her. She became very upset, crying and muttering "I can't, I can't say it..." Judge Edward Sutcliffe, looked at the jury and told her in a harsh tone and with considerable exasperation: "You're going to have to pull yourself together if you are going to give this evidence, you know."

Although the law imposes some limitations on the cross-examination of her sexual history with men other than the defendant, there is no restriction about her prior relationship with the accused. When a woman was known to have had a sexual relationship with a man who later raped her, no matter how brutally, her allegations were invariably viewed with extreme suspicion. One woman had been raped and severely beaten by her ex-boyfriend, and the sexual history was used against her. She was accused of "leading on" her assailant. Provocative behaviour in this sense ranged from accepting a lift home to being out alone late at night. Defence lawyers had no difficulty in presenting women as provocative or sexually available. Their actions and motives were scrutinized at the slightest hint of what has been called contributory negligence on their part. Consider, for example, the following questions:

"Were you in the habit of going to pubs by yourself in the evening?"

"At the disco, you just danced with anybody and everybody, didn't you?"

"Were you quite happy to accept a lift home from him?"

The defence often tried to show that the woman put herself in a risky situation in order to shift the blame from the defendant. Suggestions that she was not entirely innocent were used to imply that the defendant was not altogether guilty. Alleged victims were more or less directly accused of provocation in the most abusive situations: in one case, the defendant, who had never met the complainant before, broke into her flat in the middle of the night. All that didn't stop him from claiming that she consented, and during the trial she was cross-examined as follows:

"You no clothes in bed?"

"No, I had on a quilt and a sheet."

"Were your breasts showing?"

"No."

I suggest that the quilt slipped and your breasts were showing."

The general character of the alleged victim was also frequently attacked in court. The jury's attention would be drawn to various facts about her — for example, that she lived in a squat, that her boyfriend had been in trouble with the police over drugs, that she herself had a drink problem or a criminal record. The relevance of such matters to the issue of consent is highly doubtful, but the general lifestyle of all but the most respectable victims was regularly scrutinized in this way. Discrediting her in general terms gave the defence grounds to ask the jury to disbelieve her rape complaint. As one lawyer said: "You've heard evidence about the sort of girl she is — you have to take that into account as a background of the case."

One favourite strategy used to discredit the complainant was to suggest that she had a history of psychiatric illness. Allegations of mental instability were sometimes made without any more concrete evidence than the victim's spontaneous mentioning of feeling depressed. However, where the defence had something more tangible to go on, such as past suicide attempts or periods of psychiatric treatment, the whole area became explored in great detail during the trial.

This would then be used by the defence to suggest that the woman's evidence was unreliable because of her psychiatric history. For

example, "We have here a girl of 18. We know from the scars on her wrists that there is some history of attempted suicide. She might be confusing this with another incident." An alternative was to imply that the alleged victim was one of those dreaded women who spend their lives making unfounded rape allegations against innocent men.

The 1976 Act emphasized that the crucial element in the offence of rape is the lack of consent, not force. Nevertheless, rape victims were still expected to prove in court that they physically resisted to the utmost. Cross-examination on this subject tended to set up an expectation of how "real" victims behave, and the particular complainant's reaction was then measured against that.

"Did you scratch his face?"

"You don't think of that at the time."

"Surely, it's instinctive?"

"I didn't have the strength to do anything."

"Did you try and run away?"

"Yes."

"Did you hit him?"

"No."

"Did you push him away?"

"Yes."

"Did you think of things like that, I've already explained?"

When the complainant did not have at least some injuries, her story was rarely substantiated by the other hand, severe injuries did not guarantee success for the prosecution. One young woman who had been locked into a room with her attacker all night eventually got away from him by jumping out of a second floor window. She broke her hip, and now has a permanent limp, but the defendant was acquitted.

Another victim needed several stitches for a vaginal tear, and the defence argued that such injuries were perfectly consistent with consent. The expert medical witness, Dr Paul, had this to say: "There isn't a single obstetrician who has practised over five years who has not seen such tears as a result of consensual intercourse."

In that particular case, the jury was not convinced. When the alleged victim did not report the rape at the very first opportunity, her case was always regarded with great doubt.

Inconsistency in her evidence could sound something like this: "Afterwards, she doesn't go to the police, or anyone in the street to complain. She doesn't complain to her mother, which would have been normal. Is her conduct inconsistent with a person who was raped, or who consented?"

Apart from adding to the horrors of cross-examination, a late report seemed to have quite an impact on the outcome of the trial. Convictions were significantly more frequent where a complaint was made; and where there was a delay of more than 24 hours, the defendant was nearly always acquitted. Early reporting, however, did not mean that the woman would necessarily be believed. One woman, allegedly raped in a house in a middle-class suburb, ran naked into the street, screaming for help, in broad daylight. Nevertheless, the jury felt that she had consented and her assailant was acquitted.

If, as these examples at discrediting the complainant and impeaching her credibility were not enough to sway the jury, the judge's corroboration warning often seemed to tip the scales against her. Although corroboration is not required in law, judges always warn the jury about the dangers of convicting on the woman's word alone. Some judges managed to do this in relatively neutral terms, to convey that the warning is based on the fact that sexual offences are rare and the victim's sex. Usually, however, the corroboration warning was loaded and prejudicial, rather like this one:

"Human experience in the law courts has shown that woman and girls, for all sorts of reasons and sometimes for no reason at all, tell a false story which is extremely easy to fabricate but extremely difficult to refute."

Although the recent publicity surrounding rape has focussed on apparently exceptional and unusual cases, my experience suggests that attention should be directed at what happens in court on an everyday basis to the more "ordinary" cases. The victim continues to be on trial just as much, if not more, than the defendant.

She gets the blame for what happened, on the grounds that she asked for it and probably deserved it anyway. While the defendant's rights must clearly be protected, the victim also deserves to be treated with dignity in a way which certainly is not a distinguishing mark of current courtroom practice.

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The author is conducting research at Bedford College, London, into the operation of the 1976 Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act.

A rape victim faces cross-examination: a scene from a dramatization of a rape trial, to be shown on LWT's Weekend World this Sunday.

Interview

Keeping one jump ahead of the rest

A new company launches itself at the Haymarket Theatre tonight, with a brave choice of play and the versatile Trevor Peacock making a rare West End appearance. Sheridan Morley investigates.

The Theatre Royal, Haymarket, has in its long and distinguished stage history seen many attempts to form a permanent company there; Gielgud ran a legendary season in the middle 1950s, though Richardson was at the helm of a more short-lived Haymarket Rep. A few months ago, ambitious plans were announced for a Robin Phillips-Derek Jacobi season which came to nothing, but now, at last, the Haymarket is to have its own resident team once again for a series of at least three new productions running through until the end of the summer under the auspices of Triumph Productions.

They open tomorrow with *Hobson's Choice*, a brave starter not only because it has in living memory had acclaimed revivals at both the National and (only a few months ago) the Lyric, Hammersmith, but also because in casting Penelope Keith as Maggie Hobson the director Ronald Eyre has taken his new company's most immediately recognizable commercial asset and given her a stage image which may not altogether chime with the expectations of television viewers awaiting another jolly Home Counties lady to the manor born.

Nevertheless Eyre has surrounded her with a strong team led by Anthony Quayle as old Hobson and, as Willie Mossop, the actor-composer-lyricist Trevor Peacock, for whom this will be a rare West End appearance.

The second son of a Tottenham evangelist (the other one became an assistant headmaster), Peacock went through Enfield Grammar doing impressions of his teachers and graduated from that to running the garrison theatre in Didcot during his national service; from early childhood, there had not been much doubt about a career. "My father would occasionally take us on family outings to 'suitable' plays at the intimate in Palmer's Green. One night two fellows came on in the first act and the first one mentioned the word 'brother' and father said 'Right, that's it, everybody out' and we all had to leave."

Soon after leaving the army, however, he met the pop director Jack Good and the two of them began doing an eccentric double act, first for Clement Freud's club on top of the Royal Court in Sloane Square and from there to the Windmill. "It was a very erudite sketch about an old Oxford

professor and his pupil. God knows why Van Duxie booked us, but there we were at three o'clock on a Monday afternoon trying to raise a laugh out of all these blokes in raincoats who'd come for a look at the strippers. Sometimes the stage manager used to laugh at us, out of pity I think, but that was about it. At least the Court used to let us finish up the customers' dimmers."

But the meeting with Good also led Peacock into the music world, and within another year he was writing hit-parade songs called "Mrs Brown You've Got a Lovely Daughter" with which Herman's Hermits stayed at the top of the American charts for several weeks. At a party one night Peacock happened to meet the director Michael Elliott, now of the Manchester Royal Exchange, where most of his best and recent work has been done. Elliott said it must be wonderful to have made all that money so young out of the records, and Peacock said yes, except that he really wanted to be an actor, and that was how the next morning he found himself at the Old Vic playing 14 non-speaking roles in the Leo McKern *Peer Gynt*.

"I spent four hours chasing up and down the back stairs at the Vic either dressing up like a lemon curd tart to play a Troll or else trying to remember whether Third Peasant or Fourth Madman came next. In six plays at the Vic that last pre-National season, I finally achieved one line."

From there he went on to a solid fifteen years' slogging around the RSC (All those lads who have been there eleven years, I couldn't believe it; you have to jump about a bit in this business) before finally getting back to Michael Elliott when the Manchester company was formed. Along the way he also kept writing, most notably stage plays called *Class of '67*, *Stout Party* and a film called *He Who Rides a Tiger*.

"I also wrote two other film scripts that never got made, and that used to depress me a lot until I met a very distinguished Hollywood screenwriter on a plane who said that was the best batting average he'd ever come across in a writer, one film made for three written. The average is apparently one in twelve, but I've stopped writing films now. And going to them. It's all rubbish."



Peacock with Penelope Keith boldly cast in "Hobson's Choice"

Instead Peacock concentrates largely on shows at the Manchester Exchange and television (most recently a superb *Quilp* in *The Old Curiosity Shop* and one of the few characters actually to make himself understood in *The Borgias*). He also wrote the book, music and lyrics for a couple of highly successful Manchester musicals, one of which (*Erb*) died a terrible death in London while the other (*Leaping Ginger*) has not yet made it south. Undeterred, he is now hard at work between *Hobson* performances on a third — he and the composer Alan Price are doing a musical of the Andy Capp strip cartoon which opens at the Royal Exchange early this summer if they can find an Andy.

"What we really need is a young Max Wall, and there are precious

few of those around. I can tell you; but I love working on musicals for Manchester. They break through that posh preserve of the Cheshire thespians and appeal to a quite different city audience; most people, you know, would as soon plan a visit to China as to a theatre. But when they get there, the theatre I mean, and find they can get buns and a song or two, then there's a good chance they'll come back."

"I like the idea of a regular, loyal audience and hope that maybe we'll find one at the Haymarket; when I was at the RSC in *Henry IV*, and people used to come backstage to say they'd seen the play eighteen times, I thought they meant Burton's, Neville's, Howard's and so on, but what they meant was they'd seen our pro-

duction eighteen times. It was amazing, but if you can find those sorts of groupies then anything is possible."

Now at the start of his fifties, and well into a second marriage which means that he has sons of 20 (Daniel, already in the Royal Exchange company) and two months, Peacock is aware that he is coming into a good time. "Occasionally I've been offered my own television situation-comedy series but I've been careful to avoid those because they make you into a one-character actor and then they're very hard to break out of; the range I've had lately of work, from *Talbot* and *Jack Cade* in the new BBC *Henry VI* cycle to *IV's Born and Bred*, has meant that I can keep jumping about, and that's what matters most."

Concerts

Monochrome effect

LSO/Marriner

Festival Hall

Britten's *Men of Goodwill* dates from 1947, when he composed it for a BBC radio programme, yet Monday's performance by the London Symphony Orchestra under Neville Marriner was the first to be given in a concert hall, and indeed the first since that broadcast. It takes the form of variations on "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen", and the score's invention is so consistent that there is danger of it being taken for granted.

Yet, despite the impressive variety of figuration and the diversity of Britten's orchestral writing, the effect is monochrome, in emotional as much as in musical terms. Having admired the composer's skill, there was nothing left to think about. The performance was clear and efficient, with good work from all departments of a large ensemble.

In a disappointing contrast, the opening *tutti* of Chopin's Concerto No 2 was thoughtless, but such playing was, as it were, rebuked by the authority of Bella Davidovich's entry. However, subtle shadings were soon apparent in her phrases, as was a rubato which sought out their true meaning. Much of the piano figuration in the

development section can sound like technical exercises; none of it did here.

In thematic statements, notably the melodies sing, as Chopin's usually do, but so also, the notes melting into one another, did the rapid ornamentation. This applied especially to the slow movement, of course, and here Miss Davidovich's playing conveyed a rare vernal freshness. It was if each note was discovered in the actual moment of its performance. The mirror image of this was the darkness of the central dramatic outburst, performed, by the soloist at least, with authentic intensity.

Though it was apt that Chopin's finale should sound spontaneous, this was paid for with a lessening of finesse. Miss Davidovich's playing was still masterful in demonstration, yet the result was here less exalted.

The LSO, and Mr Marriner, gave better accounts of themselves in the *Symphonie Fantastique*. In particular, a balance was well struck between broad sweep of Berlioz's five canvases and due attention to picturesque detail. Picturesque is perhaps not quite the word for the incidents suggested by the first two movements, but "Un Bal" and "Scène aux Champs" were uncommonly evocative.

Max Harrison

RPO/Temirkanov

Festival Hall

The degree of passionate commitment was unusually high at the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra's concert on Sunday night, as much from the orchestra themselves as from their principal guest conductor, Yuri Temirkanov, and the violinist Shlomo Mintz. The soloist chose the Dvorak concerto, which made a welcome alternative to others more familiar in the romantic repertoire, and on this occasion it sounded no less a masterpiece than any of those.

Bracing himself on the platform, legs apart as if on a ship's deck, the violinist launched himself fervently into the sturdy, often folk-like character of the concerto, with its leaping lines and eloquence of feeling, a character distilled from the slavic dances and rhapsodies which were then dominating the composer's musical thinking. His intonation on linking the opening movement to the following *Adagio* was never more convincingly justified than by the richness of tone and technique with which the

soloist articulated both movements as well as the spirited finale.

The conductor has shown his affinity with Rachmaninov on previous occasions, and the forbidding number of notes that constitute the second symphony were marshalled at the service of the musical intentions, even if, to others less committed to Mr Temirkanov, the work as a whole constantly seems to promise more than it redeems. He directed its course as if concerned to escape those associations by which each movement sounds as if it might be followed by credits rolling on screen.

The temptation of the conductor in such music to express what he believes an audience should be feeling, not avoided by famous names of past and present, was here subordinated to the persuasiveness of the orchestral playing, which made most of the music with confident spirit and emphatic character. The detail of instrumental colour was also to be enjoyed in a tantalizingly brief excerpt from Rimsky-Korsakov's opera *The Invisible City of Kitezh*.

Noël Goodwin

Television

Charm of a good soap opera

There were plenty of problems in *The Silly Season* (Play for Today, BBC1), Stephen Mulrine's sad comedy from Glasgow which seemed to have been in the can long enough to include references to Sir Keith Joseph in an unfamiliar post and to present as its plausible central idea the spectacle of students doing holiday work at a bottling plant.

There were Isabel's problems, for a start. Isabel (Elaine Collins) wore pink pantomime pantyhose and a tiny black skirt that might have been made out of toffee paper; she was neglected by her father and made pregnant by Jimmy for whom she did not care. If you thought Isabel a coarse slut (and she was) she was gentleness itself compared to feckless sister Eileen (Junette Fogg), a young Maenad whose soft lips twisted and green eyes blazed with fierce

joy as one moral imperative after another consumed her. Completing the trio of witches waiting for the return of their father and husband Malcolm (Derek Anderson) was a sour and wifeing *tricotieuse* — his wife Ellen (Mary Riggans).

Malcolm had lost office in his union for refusing to go on strike, and now he was hopelessly in love with Lesley (Frances Low), the art student with the delicious nose and ginger curls at the bottling plant. Lesley's problems were modest: an enlightened and civilised upbringing, a cohabitation with Alastair (Iain Lounchlan), an engaging painter and hopelessly childlike revolutionary whose curls were nearly as pretty as hers, but blond.

We are free agents, he told her generously during a rare row, to which she replied "But it's my flat" and chuckled him out. He returned next day, of course, and they snuggled up at the

end like a couple of kids, leaving Malcolm to face the bleak wrath of Ellen, and Isabel to await the birth of their unwanted child, like Yorkshire mill-girls in Edwardian novels, in Manchester.

It looks terrible on paper, I know, but I have to say I enjoyed it. The permutations of the opening programme disclaimers of any resemblance between his cast of villainous cops and any past or present officers of the Metropolitan Police, he might have done better to call it *Operation Hot Potato*.

The author's own view of the subject is crisply expressed in the opening spectacle of an evidently incorruptible Assistant Commissioner explaining the terms of their inquiry to the visiting Wiltshire constabulary, before retiring to his Essex residence to receive a £3,000 robbery kickback from a cold-eyed underling.

The underling is one Detective Chief Inspector

Operation Bad Apple

Royal Court

G. F. Newman has found a snappy title to link this play with the *Operation Countryman* inquiry, but in view of the careful programme disclaimers of any resemblance between his cast of villainous cops and any past or present officers of the Metropolitan Police, he might have done better to call it *Operation Hot Potato*.

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Sneed, a rising young officer, loaded with commendations, and later to make his mark as the Wiltshire team's long-awaited supergrass. Until Sneed falls into their clutches, they haul in nothing but a few small fry while the big fish swim round watching them waste their time.

When Sneed begins talking and disclosing his jealously preserved records, it appears that there will shortly be no CID left; at which point, the Home Office allows the Met to take over the inquiry and suppress the evidence. The piece ends with Sneed repeating the opening routine and solemnly informing his listeners that there may be one or two bad apples in the barrel and it is their sacred duty to root them out.

Whatever the play's documentary basis, its main purpose is to supply a good night out for spectators who enjoy watching the police getting it in the neck. As I do not care for blood sports I

found it an uncomfortable experience. The police are fair game for critical documentary treatment or wild farce, like *Orson's Loo*. But a piece like this that hovers on the edge of credibility, suggesting that harassment of blacks is a deliberate policy to provoke a call for law and order, that Serious Crime Squads take so much in Securcor raids that the robbers have hardly two pennies to rub together, while at the same time protesting that it is all fiction with no reference to any policeman you might actually meet, strikes me as something less than courageous.

The black and white terms of the inquiry also compel Mr Newman to show excessive kindness to the rural constabulary. Are there no bent coppers out there too, you wonder, as their outraged eyebrows shoot up at the evil metropolitan practices, and their soft country voices take on the fanatical accent of the witch hunt. I had sympathy with the exasperated Met suspect who told them to get back to Ambridge.

Coming from the author of the *Bastard* trilogy and the *Law and Order* series, the dialogue has the ring of total authenticity, combining formal police procedure with criminal shorthand and brutal wit: finding corruption in the treatment they reserve for others, some reacting with ferocious incomprehension when finding themselves on the receiving end; others, like Patrick Malahide's nerve-hardened Sneed, facing his opposite numbers as if they were chess opponents. "It's like sitting here listening to myself," he says contemptuously, observing his adversary's provincial technique.

Max Stafford-Clark's production conjures up a succession of locations with the aid of a few chairs and a golf ball; the reality of the characters diminishes as they ascend the social scale, but Roger Booth and Toby Saloman give the Met two adversaries to be reckoned with.

Irving Wardle

Theatre

Fair game, and not so fair

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Irving Wardle



Toby Saloman (standing), Patrick Malahide: adversaries to be reckoned with

Junko Makayama

Queen Elizabeth Hall

There is a certain pleasure to be had in listening to a young pianist whose interpretations of the standard repertoire are as well thought through as the programme, and whose technique is fluent and confident enough to enable the music to speak directly, unfiltered through a mesh of nervous and physical tensions.

For the first 15 minutes or so of her recital Miss Makayama provided just this sort of pleasure. Her Schubert *G flat Impromptu* and the opening of the *B flat Sonata*, D 960, moved with refreshingly unnumbered strength the melodic and harmonic shaping of their long lines never over-urged. But the pleasure quickly palls when, within the long span of this opening movement, little slight is taken in the appearance, development or variation of each new melodic idea, one hurrying by after the other, with no pause for breath, reflection or recall, and with little

dynamic variation either side of a mezzoforte.

If in the Schubert display of Miss Makayama's technical accomplishments seemed to dispense with the need to express and infect her audience with any real affection for the music, her Chopin *Impromptu* and *Sonata* revealed those skills in even starker isolation. Particularly in the *B minor Sonata* that temptation to undernourish each small unfurling figure, each progressive harmonic inflexion, the quicker to achieve a passage of more obvious pianistic virtuosity, was more serious evidence of a failure, to penetrate and realize the musical structure and emotional evolution of the work as a whole.

With only an arbitrary limping rubato propelling the first movement's sostenuto and the Largo's rocking cantabile, by the Presto finale Miss Makayama was not alone in feeling eager to reach the end of a work whose disturbingly unurtured performance could only try the patience and dull the sensibility.

Hilary Finch

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Woody Shaw
Ronnie Scott's

Woody Shaw served his apprenticeship as a young trumpeter with such leaders as Art Blakey, Eric Dolphy, Jackie McLean and McCoy Tyner, but his brief tenure with Horace Silver's group in the middle 1960s seems to have planted the hardest seeds in his own conception. Shaw's quintet, which began a two-week residency on Street on Monday, favours several Silverish shades: strong, simple structures usually based on coiled piano figures, bright textures which stop just short of harshness, and Latin-inflected rhythms.

The leader's own playing has long threatened to qualify him for stardom, but somehow he has never escaped the shadow of Freddy Hubbard, and perhaps he is the second division. For all his unquenchable facility and vivacious attack, one improvisation sounds very much

Richard Williams

For the Médécine family, running Nice is a way of life: the present mayor, Jacques, is angrily denying charges of corruption in his city...

Dirty tricks, says le patron, and takes the gloves off

by Jonathan Fenby

Nice is wine and circus time in this month. The annual carnival is in full swing, with weekly "battles" between floral floats and night-time dances under huge strip cartoon characters in the central Place Masséna. Everybody seems to be having a good time. Sometimes police join in the dancing, trailing silver heart-shaped balloons as they sway across the cobbles.

This Mediterranean gaiety is an essential part of the image that Nice has built up since it began to develop as a tourist centre at the end of the last century. But behind the image there is the reality of bitter political infighting, economic pressure, shut-down casinos, tension with the central government in Paris and, now, *l'affaire Graham Greene*.

The novelist's allegations of corruption by the city's criminals of police officers, magistrates and lawyers, first made in a letter to *The Times*, on January 25, came at a tricky time for the well-entrenched establishment which has run the city for decades. Tourism is declining. Both of Nice's big casinos are closed because of tax debts. Luxury hotels along the Promenade des Anglais report falling business.

Though best known for tourism, Nice is also an important industrial centre, with 350,000 inhabitants, and has been banking on becoming France's California through a combination of holiday appeal and high technology companies. But the soggy state of the French economy has slowed things down. The city's economically important construction industry is in a

rocky state and the property market has plunged since the socialist electoral triumph last summer.

Nice, like many other previous conservative strongholds was not immune from the left-wing tide. Two of the city's three members of the National Assembly are now socialists, and the right-wing city council have no doubt that Nice's affairs come under particular, and critical, scrutiny from the national administration in Paris.

After a long period of absence from the city council, left-wingers won a third of the seats in 1978 and are doing everything they can to turn that into a majority at next year's municipal elections.

For them, Graham Greene's allegations came as a godsend. The socialist weekly, *Nouvel Hebdo de Nice*, put the writer on its cover and devoted four pages to the affair as an example of the way the city needs a radical change of direction. That in turn, was proof enough for members of the ruling group in Nice that the whole thing had been got up by their political enemies with one particular target in mind; the mayor who has run Nice for 15 years.

"The relationship between Nice and its mayor is one of lover and mistress", the editor of the local newspaper commented last week. "Jacques Médécine is, quite simply, *le patron*."

That is not something the 53-year-old M. Médécine would quarrel with. Graham Greene's allegations do not concern him personally, he insists, and indeed, Greene has made a point of never naming him. But M. Médécine still feels he has to climb into



The Mayor of Nice, Jacques Médécine, and his American wife: 'Why is my city always singled out?'

the ring to fight for the good name of his city.

What he is dealing with, he is convinced, is a dirty tricks campaign by his opponents. Nice, he says, has been unfairly singled out for attention. There is certainly crime in the city, but what about the recent killing of a Corsican boss of gambling clubs in Paris, and what about gang killings in Marseilles?

"If somebody dies crashing a car into a tree here, the papers write 'she was killed in a car crash in a city where M. Médécine is mayor'." he told me. "It's always 'in the city of Jacques Médécine'... In Marseilles a judge was killed recently. Nobody said that was the

fault of the mayor, who happens to be M. Gaston Defferre, the Minister of the Interior."

But Nice's recent history is certainly studded with events calculated to titillate the suspicious-minded: the escape through a court window of the mastermind of a huge bank robbery who had earlier accompanied M. Médécine as a photographer in a group trip to Japan; the drug trafficker who remained uncaptured for years before finally being arrested; gang killings that left 30 dead in the 1970s; and, above all, the casino war on the Promenade des Anglais.

M. Médécine insists that he was in no way involved in the fight between the venerable Palais de la Méditerranée casino and its ultra-modern rival, the Ruhl. The struggle was, he told me, "only a commercial war, like one between two supermarkets that are too close to one another."

There can have been few supermarket fights, however, that have led to the daughter of the owner of one disappearing mysteriously after switching her vital vote at a board meeting, as happened to the daughter of the woman who ran the Palais de la Méditerranée. Nor do many supermarket bosses flee to Switzerland to escape charges of fiscal irregularities, as did the Ruhl's boss, Jean Dominique Fraton, who still, however, keeps in regular touch with his boyhood soccer team mate, the Mayor.

Nice's current notoriety, M. Médécine told me, had a simple cause: "The left hates me because I am one of the

most combative right-wing politicians in the country. They hate my guts and I hate their guts. They want to destroy me as an example of what happens when you stand up to them. They cannot compete with my administration here so they have decided to fight by tricky ways, and the tricky way is to try to give me the image of dishonesty."

Those so-called socialists tell the people in Nice that Jacques Médécine has not done a thing for the poor and that they will do better. But they know I have done a lot for the poor, for all people who need help.

M. Médécine is very much a man of the Midi. He has written a good-selling book on the local cuisine and, engagingly, lists collecting model trains as one of his hobbies, together with rose growing, swimming and fishing. His second wife, an American heiress from the Max Factor cosmetics family many years his junior, appears beside him on municipal posters wishing the citizens of Nice a happy new year.

For anybody bearing any other name to be mayor of Nice would be as unthinkable as communist participation in the French government would have been a few years ago. Apart from a two-year break in the 1940s, Jacques Médécine's father was mayor from 1926 until 1965; Jacques took over the following year after working as a journalist.

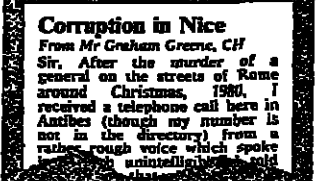
For M. Médécine's opponents, the long family tenure of power reflects Nice's democratic backwardness and accounts for the recurrent suspicions

about the way the city is run. "The kind of government that exists in Nice is the classic government of the south, like British rotten boroughs of the past," says M. Max Gallo, one of the socialist deputies elected last June and author of a novel of crime and corruption clearly based on the city.

"The permanence of the same family, not to speak of the same kind, does not encourage clear, transparent public life and gives rise to suspicions and gossip, either with a real basis or as the product of the imagination."

Nice, M. Gallo notes, has been French only since 1860. It was then a small Mediterranean town, run by a closed circle of men, and its growth into France's fifth biggest city this century has not shaken its nineteenth century municipal structure.

However much local enthusiasts may talk of an injection of high technology industries, says M. Gallo, Nice has still not become integrated with the rest of the country. He has his own clear ideas about changing that situation if he manages to unseat M. Médécine in next year's mayoral election. Whatever happens, the economic and political pressures of the next few years are bound to put the old system that has run Nice for so long under pressure. The carnival will go on, but Graham Greene's private war may play its little part in deciding whether the city remains a familiar Médécine tune or to a more left-wing air.



Corruption in Nice. From Mr. Graham Greene, *Chances*. After the murder of a general on the streets of Rome, a general in a car is seen in the distance.



Graham Greene and his controversial letter to The Times on January 25

Artist with a magic pencil

Ben Nicholson, for many enthusiasts the greatest of all contemporary British artists, lived for his work. When he died on Saturday at his Hampstead home, he had only three weeks earlier completed the arrangements for an exhibition of his recent paintings at the Wadsworth Galleries in Cork Street, W1, next month.

"I thought he was working extremely well", said Sir Norman Reid, director of the Tate Gallery, until he was succeeded by Nicholson's son-in-law, Alan Bowness, two years ago. "Latterly he had expressed a great admiration for Miro, perhaps because Miro was about his own age, and, apart from Henry Moore, almost the only surviving artist of that generation. But I think there was also a real appreciation of Miro's playful attitude to art, and his own work had taken on a more relaxed quality, without being of course in any sense sloppy."

Nicholson was in some ways a very solitary and private person (despite being twice-married), but allowed Reid to visit him regularly in Pilgrim's Lane, up the road from Michael Foot's and even urged him to bring along some of his own paintings. "He was very

encouraging without being at all lenient", Reid recalled. In the studio Reid would see the jugs and vases which he loved to draw and paint. "Friends tended to bring him things when they found something particularly delicious. They stood around and worked their way into his visual memory. And when he picked up a pencil, something magical happened, as you know."

The poet Geoffrey Grigson, who knew Nicholson most of his life, recalled taking him to Bath four years ago. After being enormously impressed by the Royal Crescent, Nicholson drifted into an antique shop, emerging with a large glass goblet. When they returned chez Grigson, he asked whether he could take over the kitchen, and spent the rest of the day closeted there drawing the goblet.

"He was an extraordinarily gay character", Grigson said fondly, "and a monstrous maker of puns."

While married to his third wife, Dr Felicitas Vogler, a German journalist and photographer, Nicholson

lived from 1958 to 1972 on the Swiss side of the Italian border near Ascona, in a modern house overlooking Lake Garda. Friends like Grigson and Reid who visited him agree that he felt unduly isolated and cut off from his friends. When he returned to England, he stayed for a time in part of an old mill near Cambridge belonging to the architect Leslie Martin, his friend from the 1930's when art and design marched hand in hand.

"The great point about his work was its extreme subtlety, which was part of his character", Sir Leslie (as he became) recalled yesterday. "He never wanted to do anything else but paint." Nicholson liked Martin's architectural work, not least when it reminded him of something he himself had done; and Martin felt reinforced by the parallel element in the work of an artist he so greatly admired. Together, and with Naum Gabo, they edited *Circle*, a book celebrating the "constructive" aspects, as they saw them, of architecture, painting and sculpture.

Despite his gaiety, his puns, his love of tennis, ping-pong (at both of which he excelled) and cricket, of cats, picnics and Stevie Smith's poems, he was not an easy man.

Few artists are heroes to their dealers (and vice versa), but Leslie Waddington, tained an affectionate admiration for Nicholson's sometimes maddening perfectionism. "Ben was totally demanding. His concept of catalogues set a standard for other dealers and influenced other catalogues", he said. It was a pity — though understandable, given his dedication to his work and his privacy — that Nicholson should virtually never have given interviews, thus denying posterity his views and his wit. One of the few who broke the barriers was his third wife: the story was that she went to interview him at his St. Ives home and, when he emerged, for several of his six children he became a remote figure. To the end it was his work which came first.

Roger Berthoud



Humphrey Spender's study of Ben Nicholson in the National Portrait Gallery

Fox recalled with an illustrious meet

Chatham House is gathering a wealth of international experience to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the British foreign secretaryship next month.

Michael Howard, Regius Professor of Modern History at Oxford, and Lord Carrington will be among speakers in a series of lectures organized by the Royal Institute of International Affairs with the Foreign Office. The celebrations commemorate the appointment of Charles James Fox as Foreign Secretary on March 27, 1782. Before that, responsibility for Britain's foreign policy was divided between two secretaries of state. One looked after southern Europe and the colonies, the other the north.

The lectures, at Chatham House on Thursdays in March, will be chaired by Lord Harlech, James Callaghan, Lord Greenhill and Lord Home. Invitations have gone to all former foreign secretaries, including Harold Macmillan, Lord Butler, Lord (Michael) Stewart and David Owen.

Vodka at six

Egon Ronay, in his 1982 *Bulmer Pub Guide*, launched yesterday, properly celebrates the rise of the family pub. But he does not mention the little-known fact that, despite our allegedly tight

licensing laws, it is perfectly legal to buy your six-year-old a vodka so long as the child is in the pub garden.

The alcohol on licensed premises outside the bar is only five.

Wrong-footed

John Timpon of Radio 4's early morning *Today* programme is a very good presenter, but I would not fancy waltzing with him. Commenting on the rail strikes yesterday, he remarked that they had changed their tempo from quickstep "on, on, off, off, on, on, to waltz — on, off, on, off."

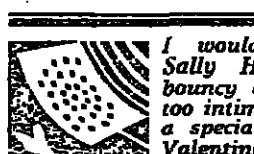
He then went further, and said they might next be waltzing "on, on, on, off, off, off, off." As we graduates of Arthur Murray realize a real railway waltz would go "on, off, off, on, off, off, but I hope none of this gives the railmen any more silly ideas.

Robert Maxwell's British Printing Corporation (BPC) changes its name from March 1 to British Printing and Communication Corporation (BPCC) — and not as some people thought to Maxwell House.

Tower power

The Pilgrims, who promote Anglo-American understanding, have Senator John Tower, chairman of the United States Senate's Armed Services Committee, coming to lunch at the Savoy on February 23. Tower, a tough Republican who won Lyndon Johnson's seat two decades ago, is a powerful figure, in some

THE TIMES DIARY



I would describe Sally Haywood as bouncy only I am too intimidated. As a special treat for Valentine's Day this ardent feminist who believes in fighting sexism with both fists and any other weapons that come conveniently to hand — is publishing a book called *Squashed Flies*.

It is described as a collection of "witty, crushing and devastating replies to male abuse." Sample: "Why don't you pick on someone your own sex?" or (in a cinema,

senses outranking the well-publicized Secretary of State, Alexander Haig. On the other hand Haig was a general. Tower, the only enlisted reservist in Congress, is still officially a chief petty officer.

Lift-off?

While Times Newspapers needs 600 employees to take off for the papers' future to be assured, the followers of the Maharishi Mahesh Yoga believe that if just another 500 inhabitants of Skelmersdale start levitating, the whole country will be rid of crime, strikes and every other nastiness. They claim statistical evidence showing that if only the square root of 1 per cent of the United Kingdom's population (about 750 people) practise "the group dynamics of conscious-

ness" the nation's troubles are over.

Skelmersdale, a new town near Liverpool, already has a group of 250 practising levitators, more than anywhere else in the country. Now the Maharishi's followers are looking for building near the Houses of Parliament from which they hope to beam their health-giving and age-reversing waves of consciousness to our legislators.

Leonard Barkey, deputy managing director of Saatchi and Saatchi, the advertising agency which so far at least retains its Conservative Party account, admits to embarrassment at the dole-queue posters his firm produced for the last general election.

Don't play it again

What ails gladioli from Malta? Something must, for of all the world's gladioli, they are banned from Britain. The returning European traveller may bring unrestricted numbers of flower seeds, but only five plants or parts of plants, and no chrysanthemums, fruit trees, or potatoes. One may bring in only a small bunch of cut flowers, but there is a complete ban on forest trees

With unemployment now double the level it was when James Callaghan left office, Barkey said that for the next election: "We might suggest the Conservatives play down unemployment." Political parties, he added, were different from the usual run of clients in that they do not ask for advice on the product. As an agency, "You just shut up and do the ads."

Weighty reading

Many things are sold by weight — it is illegal to sell Brussels sprouts any other way — so why not books? Michael Reynolds, deputy chairman of the Apple and Pear Marketing Board and founder of the Susan Reynolds Books chain, today starts selling books at 30p a pound at his Regent Street shop.

Reynolds believes that people are drawn to heavy, low-priced books irrespective of content. "One of our fastest-moving books was a big one called *Detailed Diagrams of the Brains of a Baboon* at 50p. People were snapping it up as a coffee table conversation piece because it looked impressive — and cost so little."

What ails gladioli from Malta? Something must, for of all the world's gladioli, they are banned from Britain. The returning European traveller may bring unrestricted numbers of flower seeds, but only five plants or parts of plants, and no chrysanthemums, fruit trees, or potatoes. One may bring in only a small bunch of cut flowers, but there is a complete ban on forest trees

We've sent so much money to Freddie Laker we can't afford a package holiday.



Rest easy

The safety of London now rests in the hands of the Wackenhut Corporation. The firm, little known in Britain, has been put in charge of security at the new Thames barrage.

George Wackenhut, the head of the company, flew from the United States to inspect the installation yesterday. He confirmed gravely that "considerable damage could be wrought" if anything happened to the barrage, and that the construction was regarded as "a serious security risk." It may help Londoners sleep more soundly in their beds to know that Wackenhut already

guards the Alaska oil pipeline, the nuclear test site outside Las Vegas, and the Cape Canaveral space centre from which the shuttle is launched.

Goodbye sailor

The choice of Colin Smith of Edinburgh as seafarer judged to have made the best use of his leisure time in 1981 casts new light on the perils facing seamen. He spent most of the year ashore and looking for work. He wrote more than 130 companies, many of them twice. When he did finally get a job with a foreign vessel the unhygienic conditions on board quickly made him ill, and he landed in a Beirut hospital for seven weeks. He is now unemployed again.

Winning waltz

It is not, surprisingly, unknown for newspaper writers to win literary prizes, but it must almost be unheard-of for newspaper executives. Yet tomorrow George Clare, head of the Springer newspapers' London operations, will collect the W. H. Smith award for *Last Waltz in Vienna*, a history of his Austrian Jewish family.

Clare says he is overwhelmed to be taking his place in a list of winners that includes Anthony Powell, Laurie Lee, Patrick White and John Fowles. "I cannot get over it that an English prize should go to someone born and raised in Europe," he said yesterday.

PHS

Henry Fairlie

Reagan to the rescue of Fort Budget

Washington President Reagan's 71st birthday last Saturday was given scant attention by the press — here, a reflection perhaps of its present and even raging disenchantment with him. But this President made up for its lack of notice by choosing his birthday to release his 1983 budget proposals, which have been greeted by many Republicans across the country with a low whistle of incredulity and even a shudder.

The budget message was sent officially to Congress at noon on Monday, the President having earlier met the congressional leadership. He then gave a luncheon for the 'All-Star' ice hockey players and then took off for the Midwest for the first time in a year in which the mid-term elections will be crucial.

The juxtaposition of a budget message which will be bitterly contested in Washington with his first electioneering of 1982 tells us a lot about what we may expect of Mr. Reagan during the coming year. His advisers say the budget proposals, given their probable consequences, leave him with no choice but to go out into the country and campaign for the proposals and his party.

Spending his days as President, therefore, one must remember that his role is about to change radically. With his budget — an act of political courage or obstinate folly, only time will tell — he has endangered many Republicans who must stand for reelection. He must now do the campaigning for them. The President has forced himself, at the beginning of only his second year in office, to become a candidate again.

Most presidents try to avoid taking too active a part in the mid-term election process. Why risk their own reputations and popularity trying to save candidates who may in the end be defeated? But Mr. Reagan has no option. He needs the Republican majority in the Senate and the Republican strength in the House. He must lead the fight for them.

Even the most privileged White House correspondents of the great American newspapers say, as one of them wrote not long ago, that it "often remains mysterious" how closely Mr. Reagan follows daily developments, how deeply he is engaged in the process of governing, and how he arrives at his decisions. But even what has been known so far is not now a reliable guide.

Even as a candidate in 1980, when he had none of the duties of office, he had to be shielded — not just to save his energy but also to reduce the chances of him miffing his lines. The responsibilities of the presidency have added a third concern. He is quite capable of talking happily along, as someone put it the other day, "some times altering foreign policy with a chance remark", which his staff then has to try to retrieve.

When he legitimately boasted of his victory on the sale of Avco aircraft to Saudi Arabia, for example, he gratuitously commended the Saudis' Middle East peace proposals. Not only Israel but his own State Department was incredulous. If he must now carry his budget fight to the country, whether by televised news conferences or by going on public platforms again, much time will have to be spent guarding against such ineffectual improvisations.

Even before the new budget proposals were released, with his popularity slipping in the polls, his advisers decided he should give more news conferences. This has called for still more regular and more intensive briefing by his staff.

It has been said that presidential news conferences have become exercises in damage control as the press grows more critical. But there can never have been a White House staff — there certainly has not been in the four previous presidencies I have observed — which is so fearful of what the President will say. This determines much of the character of his days.

More than any other previous administration, Mr. Reagan's is committed to marketing techniques, from the elaborate use of survey research by a team of pollsters to the final marketing of the finished product by a team of media consultants. A White House day is a more and more dominated by a continuous process of educating the President for the public performances arranged by his staff.

Every description of the process given by the critics of his top advisers is woolly. Even when the President personally makes a serious error (as in supporting tax-exempt status for segregated schools), when he resists the weight of advice (as in pursuing his policy of big tax cuts), both the moment of the presidential decision and the manner in which it was reached are hard to discover.

The country simply does not know what he does, which has so far clearly been to his advantage. But if one adds up the decisions in which he is known to have had a hand at a stage that is the most revealing impression is of a President whose interventions are intermittent and arbitrary, and are made on a range of ill-assorted issues of varying seriousness and triviality.

Above all, there is no more evidence now than at the beginning that he gives any sustained attention to the graver and more far-reaching questions of foreign policy. This situation can only deteriorate because of the character of his budget message. For yet another year his Congress and the country's attention will be concentrated on domestic policy and the protracted battles that it will cause.

A president who has made it inevitable that he must lead the fight for the budget, and lead his party in the elections which will be focused on it, is not a president who will have much time in any day to consider the Nato alliance.

One of his triumvirate, James A. Baker III, said the other day: "We're not unhappy with the way the President's time has been scheduled. One of the things we do in our morning meetings is talk about how we think the President's time is being allocated and spent in a macro sense."

If ever I find myself allocating my time in a macro sense I will decide reluctantly but firmly that it is time to go.

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P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

A MATTER OF ORIGINS

Considering that the idea has been the stuff of bawdy science fiction for many years, the first steps to intervene extraneously in the process of human fertilization have been received with reasonable calm. The adulterous overtones of artificial insemination by donor (AID) have not generally been fussed over, and the remarkable achievement of conceiving babies in glass dishes has been fussed over mainly for its sentimental significance. Several thousand couples have been enabled to have children through AID, and in vitro fertilization may help as many as a hundred this year.

Medical knowledge in this area is growing very fast. Before long doctors will have it in their power to manipulate the processes of conception in ways that raise far more troubling ethical questions than present practices. Some doctors, including the chairman of the British Medical Association's central ethical committee, which meets to discuss the subject today, have called for a complete halt to work in this field until society has had time to take stock.

Existing procedures, which have been used with animals for some years, do not carry medical risks of pose immediate ethical problems of an order that would warrant a ban. That would be a bitter blow to many couples who hope to benefit, and might lose their chance for ever if there was delay.

Nevertheless the general implications have not been fully considered either by doctors or by society at large. The BMA's committee will no doubt be helpful as will the guidelines now being prepared by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, but this is not a matter to be left wholly to the doctors. There is now a strong case for a widely-based government inquiry, including a variety of lay

voices as well as medical ones, into the whole question. Whether or not any line of research should be halted in the meantime is a matter that the inquiry itself should be invited to address itself, to, and make recommendations as necessary in an interim report.

In themselves, AID and in vitro fertilization are less unfamiliar in their implications than their scientific magic might suggest. The latter has as yet only been accomplished in Britain with the husband's sperm, but it could be done with donor sperm. A child conceived in this way, or by AID would technically be illegitimate, but in practice it is most unlikely that this would put it at any legal disadvantage. In animals, a fertilized ovum has already been implanted successfully in a different female, and the same technique may soon be applicable to human couples where a woman cannot herself produce ova capable of fertilization. In effect, this is a kind of pre-natal adoption, and it raises similar issues.

Adoption cannot take place without formal social reports and sanction by a court, but in AID it is left to the doctor's professional judgment to assess whether the aspirant parents are suitable. Parallel safeguards may not be necessary — adoption tends to be a far more complex matter psychologically. But adoptive children and AID children alike may in some cases feel a strong desire when they grow up to find out their real genetic origin, and to suffer greatly if they are prevented from doing so. Since 1975 the law has given the former the right to know, though it has not made it easy, and a minority take advantage of this. It seems right that AID children should be able to do the same.

This implies that the identity of donors should be recorded, though on a confidential basis. There is no

requirement for this at the moment. A record would also help to overcome fears of accidental incest, similar to those which sometimes exist with adoptions. The risk of serious genetic ill-effects from such an event would in practice be remote, but precautions would nevertheless make reassurance available both to the individual and the public. Whether statutory requirements are necessary, or a code of practice for doctors, the inquiry may consider.

Further ahead, the ethical problems become stranger and graver. Freezing of genetic material and cloning (or division of fertilized eggs into an unlimited number of genetically identical individuals) are already part of existing procedures, but with further development they would make highly bizarre eugenic tinkering feasible. It is not desirable to ban useful practices outright merely because they could be used in offensive or dangerous ways, but there may be a case for regulation. A fertilized egg is potentially a person. It ought not to be regarded as dispensable material on the same basis as sperm or an egg that has not been fertilized. There is no clear consensus in society about the rights that such an entity possesses, or at what stage it acquires them, as may be seen from disagreements about abortion. Embryos fertilized in the laboratory would be of enormous value as material for scientific research. In the case of abortion, it is widely accepted that the interests of a mother can override her foetus's claim to life. Research of benefit not to one individual but to the whole community might arguably be said to have at least an equal claim. But the idea is deeply repugnant to many. It is time for a calm and thorough debate over which of the many strange possibilities now opening up are acceptable, which need further controls, and which are unacceptable.

CHEMICAL ARSENALS

Chemical warfare is rightly held in abhorrence. President Reagan's request to Congress for funds to reactivate a chemical weapons programme will deepen misgivings where they are already felt in Western Europe about the American rearmament drive. Chemical weapons have not been manufactured in the United States since 1969, nor are they likely to be in the immediate future. On the other hand, a nerve gas plant is already under construction in Arkansas, and what is "developed" could without much difficulty be "produced" and subsequently deployed. Since as with tactical nuclear weapons the envisaged battleground is Western Europe any such suggestion could lead to a further rise in European neutralist sentiment, together with the anti-Americanism on which it feeds.

The policy can be justified if — as Mr Reagan has suggested — it is intended to make the use of chemical weapons less rather than more likely, and if possible to abolish them altogether. The programme outlined by President Reagan is partly defensive, in that it calls for better protective clothing against possible Warsaw Pact attacks. The Reagan programme is also intended to replace existing stockpiles, which are deteriorating and will shortly become more dangerous to their possessors than to potential aggressors. But the President clearly wants to go further, as his proposal for the development of a new binary nerve gas indicates. His intention is to enlarge the American chemi-

cal warfare capability to the point where it forces the Russians to negotiate reductions in their own substantial chemical arsenals.

There are no reliable estimates of the Soviet capability, and American charges that the Russians have used poisonous gases either directly (in Afghanistan) or through surrogates (in South East Asia) have yet to be proved. But the Soviet Union has extensive stockpiles of chemical weapons, and Soviet troops are systematically trained in their use. Nerve gas is a peculiarly vile weapon, resulting in death through paralysis, and its effects could scarcely be confined to the battlefield. Much the same might be said of nuclear weapons, tactical or otherwise, and death from nuclear blast and radiation and death from nerve gas poisoning are horrific in about equal measure. But whereas a balance of sorts exists in the nuclear field, there is no deterrent at present to the Soviet use of chemical weapons beyond the use of nuclear weapons themselves, which in the Nato doctrine of "flexible response" is conceived of as a last resort.

To try and match the Russians gas for gas would be to risk a new and deadly arms race, and would in any case presuppose detailed knowledge of the Soviet capability. But the Russians must be made aware that the West has not only the ability to protect itself against gas but also the capacity to develop and deploy chemical weapons of its own. Otherwise the incentive is lacking for the Soviet Union to negotiate seriously

with a view to banning chemical weapons.

To be effective, this approach must be combined with a vigorous diplomatic effort to negotiate a comprehensive ban. The international treaties on both chemical and biological weapons are unsatisfactory. The 1925 Geneva protocol on chemical warfare bans the first use of chemical weapons, but not their manufacture or stockpiling. The 1972 convention on biological warfare (ratified in 1975), by contrast, bans the manufacture of biological weapons and toxins, but not — absurdly — their use. These anomalies must be properly considered within the frame work of the current disarmament talks at Geneva, together with ways in which infringements of a comprehensive ban might be detected.

Verification is difficult, not least since active chemical agents can be manufactured and stored separately, and only brought together when required. But it is not impossible to devise verification procedures, provided the parties to the treaty agree to on-site inspection, something the Russians have refused to do. They have also refused to assist United Nations investigations in to allegations of chemical warfare in Afghanistan and South East Asia. The Americans also have reason to suspect the Soviet Union of a breach of the convention on biological weapons. If in these circumstances the Americans are alarmed by the prospect of Russian dominance in a particularly horrifying area of warfare, the Russians can have only themselves to blame.

University challenge

From Professor P. C. Bayley
Sir, The Vice-Chancellor of London University (February 2) wrote only of Britain's need of universities in terms of their contribution to industry, science, technology, management, law and medicine — the necessary sciences and arts. He signally omitted to mention Humane Letters and the Police Arts to which his own distinguished academic career has been devoted. Whether this inference may be drawn — and ought to be drawn, and I as one who professes a non-scientific, non-technological subject would strongly urge that a beleaguered industrial nation really cannot and ought not go on maintaining so marked a mandarin emphasis as Britain does.
Yours faithfully,
P. C. BAYLEY,
70 Winmar Place,
St Andrews,
Fife.

Safeguards on insemination

From Mr P. A. F. Chalk and others
Sir, The letter from Dr Snowden and Professor Mitchell (February 4) brings into the open the concern which surrounds the establishment of foetal embryo banks and the freezing of human semen and ova for future use in human reproduction or research in embryo development, etc. It is important, however, to recognize those areas of established treatment which need to be safeguarded.

The collection, freezing, and use of donor semen is an important and established practice where the male partner is azoospermic. The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists have given guidelines which have been valuable in ensuring that the highest ethical and professional standards are observed in conditions of complete confidentiality.

The in vitro fertilization technique pioneered by Steptoe and Edwards, whereby sperm and ova from a husband and wife have provided a means whereby married couples can achieve a pregnancy which is genetically theirs when the normal processes of fertilization and implantation are rendered impossible by the complete and irreversible occlusion of the fallopian tubes. It would be sad if a moratorium on the retrieval of ova should interfere with this valuable form of treatment.

The possibility of the use of donor semen and donor ova, and the subsequent implantation into the uterus of a patient with whom there is no genetic relationship, opens an entirely new field. To our knowledge this has not been done so far, but workers in the field of in vitro fertilization have stated their intention of doing so. It is to this matter and the storage of ova and semen for the same ends, or for research, that the most urgent attention should be focused. To delay could lead to a fait accompli with such questions as the rights of the foetus, the genetic parents, and the recipient woman left unanswered. The status of an ovum before and after fertilization must be resolved.

We, the National Health Service consultants, are not involved in the programme of extra-conceptual fertilization currently being undertaken at this hospital. Whilst we would welcome guidelines from the Royal College, we feel that the fundamental issues involved are so important that the medical profession should not attempt to handle them on their own. It is to be hoped that religious leaders, lawyers, politicians, and all those with a serious concern for ethical and moral welfare, will share in this responsibility and make their views known.
Yours faithfully,
P. A. F. CHALK,
VALERIE M. THOMPSON,
LUPA EPSZTEJN,
The Royal Free Hospital,
Hampstead, NW3.
February 9.

From Mr Peter Kane
Sir, I detect a note of undue censoriousness in the letter on human embryo banks from Dr Robert Snowden and Professor G. Duncan Mitchell (Feb 4) where they refer to a "masturbatorium" in Adelaide, South Australia, in which donors provide their donation in conditions of some comfort, including the availability of "girlie" magazines. Surely it would be counter-productive (if I may avail myself of the expression in this context) to expect the donors to take cold baths and think of Australia?
Yours, etc.,
PETER KANE,
Flat 3,
116 South Hill Park,
Hampstead, NW3.
February 4.

Mixed fortunes

From Mrs S. M. Newton
Sir, The fortunes of "The Fortune Teller" (Letters, January 20, 23) should perhaps be compared with those of National Gallery 3831, catalogued in 1929 as "School of Michelangelo and now in the reserve. It too, was enthusiastically commended and by a director of the Courtauld Institute. When, in the early 1920s it came up for sale, he and several distinguished colleagues in the art world persuaded the National Gallery that it should buy the painting, which it did. It hung in the appropriate gallery until, several years later, an Italian visitor pointed out that it included a portrait of the man who had taught him to paint.

Today the clothes in 3831 look as ludicrously inspired by the fashions of the early twentieth century as, I believe, given time, the clothes in "The Fortune Teller" will be seen to have been inspired by the fashions of the middle of that century. Those who are young enough should, perhaps, be prepared to wait.
Yours obediently,
STELLA MARY NEWTON,
3 Cumberland Gardens,
Lloyd Square, WC1.
February 2.

Restrictive practices

From Mr Charles Whiffin
Sir, I find the reasoning of the RAC spokesman you quote (The Times, February 5) slightly hard to follow.
If they refuse to list an hotel in their guide because it does not admit smokers, what many of its members are smokers? what then is the logic in listing hotels which do not admit children?
Is one to assume that there are no many members of the RAC who have children?
Yours faithfully,
CHARLES WHIFFIN,
10a, Elmcourt Road,
West Norwood, SE27.

The British view of enterprise

From Mr Ray Whitney, MP for Wycombe (Conservative).

Sir, It has been a widely held view, at least until recently, that one significant measure and cause of the difference between the economies of the American and the British is the slowness of our own was to be found in the respective national attitudes to entrepreneurs. Most Americans seemed to take pride in their success and regard them as exemplars of what can be achieved, to the benefit of society by individuals fired with courage and vision. In Britain the dominant response was a mean and aggressively egalitarian hostility to anyone who dared to try to lift himself out of the dreary mud-flats of the corporatist state.

One very bright spot in the gloom of the Laker collapse has been the strength of the demonstration that most of us are now imbued with a totally different spirit. The great majority have shown their deep admiration and affection for Sir Freddie Laker — his mistakes and all. The clearest possible indication that the penny has, at last, dropped. There is now wide understanding that economic growth and jobs cannot be left to the state but will only be produced in a society which allows entrepreneurs to flourish. The Government must seize the opportunity created by this mood and press on with the liberalisation of the economy.

Of course, it is inevitable that there will be pockets of resistance to the new mood. The die-hard reaction. The Communist Party newspaper and the leader of the "Liberal" Party — well ahead in the polls as leader of the Alliance — use remarkably similar language as they exult in Sir Freddie's downfall and call for more state intervention. To the *Morning Star* he is "the typical creation of the free-market economy" and for Mr David Steel he represents "the latest nail in the coffin" of "the free economic theories of this Government," theories which Mr Steel is at pains to reject. Whatever happened to Liberalism?

Yours sincerely,
RAY WHITNEY,
House of Commons.
February 8.

From Mr S. P. Morse
Sir, In your editorial, "Sell! Sell! Sell!" (February 8), you seem to equate nationalization with bad management, particularly in relation to British Airways.
Bad management is often a result of human inadequacy and usually has little to do with the "ownership" of the enterprise. One might indeed say that in nationalized industries the results of such bad management as occurs are not visited to the same extent on customers (such as Laker ticket holders) or staff (Laker pilots) who have had absolutely no responsibility for that management.
Also the idea that Laker,

Unions and the media

From Mr Michael Meacher, MP for Oldham, West (Labour)
Sir, The Aslef dispute has highlighted yet again the bias in the press treatment of industrial relations. It took "blacklisting" action by Aslef members at Kings Cross to secure a right of reply to the Sun's front-page and uncorroborated and indiscriminate allegations of "fiddling and cheating" by railmen. Many deplored the blacklisting, but did any of them also demand that a right of reply be formally instituted so that it does not have to be enforced by such means in future?

It is not as though the problem is new. At the TUC's Day of Action on May 14, 1980, calculations show that Fleet Street's five tabloid dailies (the *Express*, *Sunday Express*, *Sunday Mirror*) allocated 2,209 column inches to hysterical opposition to it, and only 254 to stating what was to happen in a non-derogatory fashion. Not a single inch of 334 given to editorial consideration of the day was other than hostile. Phrases like the *Express* reference to the "unselected Lenin Murray and his bully boys" (who, by the way, elected the paper's editor, Derek Jameson) was commonplace. Not a single feature appeared offering space to any of the leaders of the demonstration to explain why they had called it and what they were trying to achieve.

Such examples are legion at the time of every major industrial dispute. It is high time newspaper proprietors accepted that freedom of the press does not mean a

SDP and socialism

From Mr R. G. Sawyer
Sir, In case your readers should believe that the Reverend Martin Camroux and Mr Lacey (February 2) represent a widespread internal view of the SDP, may I suggest that they are in fact suffering from a severe attack of "future shock".

They make it clear that their only motive for joining the SDP was the accelerating process of dissolution within the Labour Party. It is obvious that this factor will have motivated many recruits, but it has always been equally obvious that the majority of SDP members never conceived the new party to be any sort of modification of the Labour Party, be it Mark 4 or 24.

Your correspondents' belief that adherence to selected political stances of the past is the only legitimate path to truth and social justice merely emphasizes their mistake in thinking that the SDP was to be a reformed version of a discredited model. It is their determination to stick to the clichés of the past that is divisive, not the search for consensus.
None of us believes that the class divisions of centuries can be healed easily, but seeking agree-

ment and acknowledging the evils of division by whatever prejudice is as good a place to start as any. Perhaps what Mr Camroux and Mr Lacey forgot when they joined those of us without previous political affiliations is that social democrats believe in the exercise of choice as the essential component of freedom. Could it be that their previous experience in the Labour Party had not prepared them for such a revelation?

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT G. SAWYER,
Vice-Chairman, Dunbartonshire SDP,
Woodend, 33 Queen Street,
Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire.

From Mr A. D. R. Holland
Sir, If the Government really does wish to sell British Airways, it should negotiate an immediate rescue on a strictly commercial basis for Laker Airways and merge it into BA with Sir Freddie Laker as Chairman. He would then be in receipt of subsidies on restructuring the enlarged enterprise to produce an internationally acceptable level of efficiency prior to disposal.

If he were to achieve this daunting objective, and Sir Freddie is just the kind of man who could carry his employees with him, either the airline would be profitable or the Government would be in a position to make it so by getting tough with those countries whose airlines could be seen to be in receipt of subsidies on United Kingdom routes. After all, it is these subsidised airlines, including our own British Airways, which have grounded Laker Airways. It was not lack of efficiency.

A revitalized and profitable BA, with Sir Freddie as its boss, would be a natural investment for tens of thousands of people who would not have been able to visit distant lands without his vision and resolve and this has been well illustrated by wide public support shown for him in recent days.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY HOLLAND,
7-8 Warwick Street, W1.
February 8.

From Mr D. C. Damant
Sir, Your leader on the collapse of Laker Airways does not, I think, go to the heart of the matter. Air fares across the Atlantic and on many other routes are too low. The fact that cartel arrangements may in some places protect inefficiency does not take away from the fact that attempt to lower fares has produced revenues inadequate to cover the real cost of the considerable capital employed in the purchase of expensive aircraft.

In a world of scarce resources, the greatest benefits are obtained by the efficient use of capital, not by its careless consumption. The Laker affair shows that one cannot fly in the face of reality forever.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID C. DAMANT,
Garrard House,
Gresham Street, EC2.
February 8.

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Yours faithfully,
PAULINE HALLAM,
13 Blind Lane,
Bourne End,
Buckinghamshire.
February 9.

From Mrs Pauline Hallam
Sir, He won't get the George Medal at best the opprobrium of his fellow workers; more likely the lynch mob.
But may I salute the courage of the lone train driver to break the Aslef strike?

Yours faithfully,
PAULINE HALLAM,
13 Blind Lane,
Bourne End,
Buckinghamshire.
February 9.

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None of us believes that the class divisions of centuries can be healed easily, but seeking agree-

Dangers of lead in petrol

From the Managing Director of the Associated Ocel Company Limited

Sir, Your leader of today's date (February 9) appears to indicate that some new medical evidence has been found upon which your remarks about lead and mental health could be based.
The fact remains that no new medical evidence has been produced to support the original interpretation of Needleman's work published in 1975. While not criticising the quality of the results, the interpretation placed on those results is still open to question, and in fact was rejected by the Lawther committee. A number of medical studies are now in progress throughout the world to try to clarify the issue.

The loudness of the clamour from the CLEAR campaign is not evidence. Expressions of opinion are clearly the right of everyone. The unwillingness of the media in general to provide an equal opportunity for those not in agreement with the CLEAR campaign and its predecessors to present their views, can at best be described as dismal. It could also be described as censorship.

Yours very truly,
A. J. W. AID,
Managing Director,
The Associated Ocel Company Limited,
20 Berkeley Square, W1.
February 9.

From the Director General of the United Kingdom Petroleum Industry Association Limited

Sir, The investment cost figure of £200m mentioned in your leader (February 9) does not relate to elimination of lead from petrol, as you suggest, but to reduction of lead content from 0.4 grams/litre to 0.15 g/l.

One of the possible solutions considered by Government last year as a means of reducing lead emissions was the introduction of unleaded 92 octane petrol in which the car population could progressively switch. The oil industry made clear its willingness to accept this and it would be quite untrue to suggest that we sought to prevent it. However, we recognise that such a step would have widespread implications for the motor industry, for energy conservation and for EEC commitments which only Government could assess.

In the end, Government decided on the alternative course of a reduction in lead level to 0.15 g/l and the oil industry is now working towards implementing this, at considerable expense. Obviously, the major part of this expenditure would be redundant if Government decided to move to 92 octane unleaded petrol thereafter.

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS HARVEY,
Director General,
United Kingdom Petroleum Industry Association Ltd,
9 Kingsway, WC2.
February 9.

Unversed

From Mr J. A. Day
Sir, The published aim of The Associated Examining Board's Ordinary-level English literature syllabus is "to encourage wide reading and, where possible, to relate literature to modern life". Many would argue that the selection of books listed in Mr P. Hope's letter of January 26 is more likely to stimulate a young person's appreciation and enjoyment of English literature than a restricted diet of poetry and Shakespeare.

Although the syllabus is not designed primarily for young people proposing to read English literature at university, it does include a Shakespeare play, which is chosen by the vast majority of candidates, and it offers a choice of three poetry anthologies, including Elizabethan lyrics, Wordsworth, Keats and Yeats mentioned in Lord David Cecil's letter of January 13.

The board entirely agrees with your correspondents that poetry is central to any study of English literature, but it does not wish to make it an examination requirement for all candidates. The continued popularity of this syllabus suggests that English teachers welcome the freedom to choose a selection of books which is suitable for their own students and which provides them with rewarding and enjoyable study.

Yours faithfully,
J. A. DAY, Secretary General,
The Associated Examining Board for the General Certificate of Education,
Wellington House,
Aldershot,
Hampshire,
January 28.

Cloying the palate

From Mr Llew Gardner
Sir, Mr Gerald Long (feature, February 6) complains of the sauce "masking" the flavour of his turbot at Le Gavroche restaurant.

I have never eaten at this establishment, but I found the flavour of Mr Long's correspondence with Mr Roux to be quite ruined by a rich pomposity. My sympathy goes out both to the patient Mr Roux and his long-suffering chaser waiter.

Yours faithfully,
LLEW GARDNER,
12 St Ann's Gardens, NW5.
February 6.

From Mr Neville Braybrooke
Sir, I have not been to Le Gavroche restaurant. But turbot in a port wine sauce sounds a vile mixture. What about a dish of sardines and prunes as a starter?
Yours faithfully,
NEVILLE BRAYBROOKE,
10 Gardnor Road, NW3.
February 6.

Art and tax debts

From Mr George Levy
Sir, It is greatly to be hoped that the dire forebodings in the art world accurately reported by Miss Frances Gibb (February 3) will turn out to be without foundation when the Government's response is announced to certain constructive proposals of the select committee urging administrative reforms to encourage retention in this country of our cultural heritage.

One of the most serious fears is to the effect that the Treasury, and through it the Inland Revenue, are resisting the committee's far-seeing recommendation (surely supported by the Minister for the Arts) that the terms fixing the amount of tax satisfied by the statutory tax-free surrender of works of art in discharge of tax liabilities should now be made more attractive to those faced with heavy capital transfer tax demands.
The eyes of the art world will be on Mr Nicholas Ridley,

Financial Secretary to the Treasury, when he is questioned by the select committee on February 24. Will he on this occasion forbear to play his department's automatic, unreasoning role of "abominable no-man?"

Miss Gibb pertinently drew attention to the existence of the scale of funding now becoming available to foreign buyers which could induce British tax debtors to ignore facilities which, though they exist in legal theory, are nevertheless stifled in practice by administrative discouragement. But is not this a situation which is likely to meet with a (doubtless unconfessed) welcome from the Inland Revenue, with its evident vested interest in our heritage being dispersed overseas for taxable cash at the highest prices in the open market?

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE J. LEVY, Director,
H. Blair and Sons,
119 Mount Street, W1.
February 4.

Focus on ZIMBABWE

Despite constitutional barriers and far from overwhelming support for his ZANU-PF party at the independence elections in 1980 (see chart), the Prime Minister Mr Robert Mugabe maintains that one-party rule is only a matter of timing. Michael Hornsby assesses his efforts to win over all sections of the population and, in a second article, his schizophrenic relationship with South Africa.

The reopening of the parliamentary assembly in Salisbury last month after the Christmas break was a reassuringly familiar spectacle. The green leather benches, white-wigged speaker and ritual exchanges of insults between MPs all suggested that the Westminster model bequeathed by the Lancaster House agreement to black-ruled Zimbabwe was alive and well. But the trappings were deceptive. For Mr Robert Mugabe, the Zimbabwean Prime Minister, has set course for something much closer to the black African convention of a one-party republic in what has been officially named "the year of transformation".

So far as Mr Mugabe and his Zanu-PF party are concerned, as he explained in an interview in his Salisbury office, the goal is not in dispute. It is simply a question of when it can be achieved. The "when" is, of course, all important, not least because of the restraints built into the Lancaster House constitution, and the obvious danger of trying to push ahead without the full support of the country's other major political force, Mr Joshua Nkomo's Patriotic Front (PF), formerly Zapu.

After dropping the subject for some months, Mr Mugabe revived the one-party state issue during a populist "meet-the-people" tour of rural areas last month in terms that sent tremors through Western embassies in Salisbury, and drew an angry response from Mr Nkomo who evidently suspected an attempt to hustle him into a merger of his party with Mr Mugabe's.

In private conversation, Mr Mugabe uses much more moderate language. There is, he insists, no question of enforcing a one-party state, which must come about by the "democratic will of the people" (a referendum mentioned) but he is convinced that Zimbabwe, at its present stage of reconstruction and development cannot afford the luxury of multi-party squabbling, and that political differences should be worked out "under the umbrella" of a single political structure. This is a familiar argument in Africa.

It is obviously of concern to Mr Mugabe that, despite winning 57 of the 80 common roll seats at the independence elections, he does not have a truly national base, Zanu's support having been built essentially on a Shona-speaking constituency in the north and east. The Shona group accounts for some 80 per

cent of the population, but has a history of clan rivalry and political fragmentation, whereas the 20 per cent of the population in the south and west who are Ndebele speakers, and who form the base of Mr Nkomo's support, have always been much more united.

The attractions for Mr Mugabe of bringing Mr Nkomo into the fold are thus evident. Mr Nkomo himself is in a more difficult position. If he continues to play the game of conventional party politics, he appears to be condemned to be a permanent minority (unless he can extend his support to dissident Shona elements), but if he accepts the offer of union with Zanu he would be in danger of being submerged and losing even the base that he has. Better, he may calculate, to stay in coalition (albeit in a non-job as minister without portfolio), retain a separate political identity, and hope to improve his position at the next elections in 1985.

There is a long history of distrust between Mr Mugabe and Mr Nkomo dating back to the early years of the nationalist movement, and Mr Nkomo views with deep suspicion the formation of the Fifth Army Brigade, a body of 5,000 men drawn almost exclusively from the ranks of former Zanu guerrillas loyal to Mr Mugabe.

On the face of it, the constitutional hurdle in the way of a one-party state looks pretty insurmountable for the time being. The right of political association is one of the entrenched clauses of the Lancaster House settlement, and for 10 years can only be amended by a unanimous vote of the 100 MPs in the Assembly. The 20 MPs of the Republican (formerly Rhodesian) Front party of Mr Ian Smith would obviously block any change, even if Mr Nkomo's PF, which holds 20 of the common roll seats, and Bishop Muzorewa's UANC, which holds three, did not.

The whites are guaranteed 20 seats only until 1987. After that it might be easier to muster near-unanimity for the one-party state idea provided Mr Nkomo could be brought round, but will the hotheads in the Zanu-PF central committee wait that long?

Any attempt to ride roughshod over the entrenched clauses of the Lancaster House constitution would obviously alarm Zimbabwe's friends in the West, who stumped up some £1,000m in aid over three years at the

Zimbabwe conference on reconstruction and development (Zimcord) last year, and frighten off private foreign investment, which has been very slow to arrive. It would also add to the nervousness of local whites whose rate of exodus went up sharply last year.

In fairness, it should be said that the idea of a one-party state is accepted much more readily by whites inside the country than foreign opinion without. Many white businessmen and farmers see positive merit in it if it produces greater stability.

The welding together of the former 30,000 Zanu (Mugabe) and 20,000 Zipu (Nkomo) guerrillas into a new army of 60,000 men, which also includes the 15,000-strong former Rhodesian army, has been a remarkable achievement.

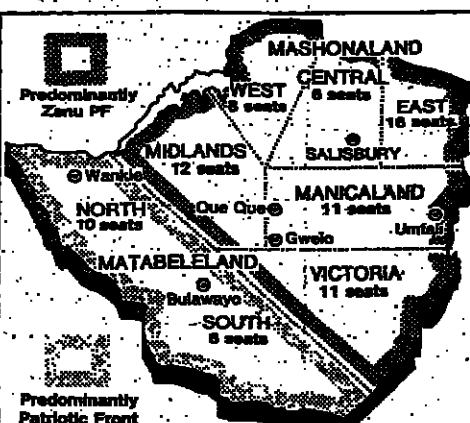
The last serious clash occurred a year ago in Bulawayo when fighting broke out between three Zipu and Zanu battalions after an incident in a beer-hall, and was only quelled by the intervention of old Rhodesian Army units and the White-piloted air force. More than 300 guerrillas and civilians may have been killed.

That blood-letting seems to have served as a salutary lesson to all concerned, particularly the Zipu forces which came off worst (though the discovery last weekend of large illegal arms caches on Zipu-owned farms suggests that some at least of Mr Nkomo's men are still hoping to even the score). The main problem now is reducing the army to a more manageable and less costly size of about 40,000 men so as to release more funds for pressing social reforms.

Under pressure to satisfy the expectations aroused by independence, Mr Mugabe's Government has pressed ahead with egalitarian social reforms such as free primary schooling and free medical care for the lower paid.

There is a lack of certainty about the Government's intentions on public ownership. So far, the Government has limited itself to buying out the previous South African majority holding in the country's newspapers, to taking over one of the country's three banks, and to acquiring a 42 per cent share in the country's biggest pharmaceutical company. However, a Bill now before Parliament would also give the Government control of the marketing of minerals,

continued on page 11



Voting patterns in the 1980 election (excluding white seats)

The balance of power

Both Mr Robert Mugabe and Mr Joshua Nkomo, leaders of ZANU-PF and the Patriotic Front respectively, regularly denounce tribalism and assert that observers see too much in the divide between the Shona and Matabele peoples. With ZANU-PF dominant in the east and the Patriotic Front supreme in the west, it is nevertheless still a potent force in national politics. Bishop Abel Muzorewa's United African National Council became the major party of the Zimbabwe Rhodesia administration, drawing on the same regional support which subsequently went to Mr Mugabe.

The 20 white members of the House of Assembly, entrenched for seven years from independence under the constitution, were elected by the white-roll constituencies in force before independence. The remaining 80 common roll seats were fought under a party list system in which voters in a large electoral region indicated a choice of political party.

Link with trading partner

Zimbabwe's foreign policy is dominated by its schizophrenic relationship with South Africa, the looming, and as seen from Salisbury, threatening presence south of the Limpopo which Mr Mugabe and his government fear for all their off-proclaimed abhorrence of apartheid, cannot do without for solid commercial and economic reasons.

South Africa is by far and away Zimbabwe's biggest trading partner, taking 18 per cent of its exports (41 per cent of manufactured goods), and supplying 32 per cent of its imports. It is position of dominance, strongly reinforced during the period of UDI, when other trade avenues were closed off or restricted. South African investment, particularly in mining, is of critical importance.

Zimbabwe is also crucially dependent on South Africa's road and rail system and ports, through which pass some 75 to 80 per cent of its imports and exports, as well as nearly all its oil requirements (giving rise to accusations last year that Pretoria was to blame for shortages of diesel and petrol). Awareness of their economic vulnerability has not deterred Zimbabwe's leaders from castigating at every turn the policies of the "apartheid racist regime". The approved formula which Zimbabwean television newscasters are now instructed to use in any reference to South Africa:

It is axiomatic in Salisbury that Pretoria cannot tolerate on its northern border a stable, prosperous and above all multi-racial African state, and that it is, therefore, doing everything it can to "destabilize" the economies of Zimbabwe and its neighbours.

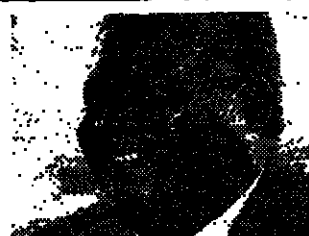
Yet Mr Mugabe is clearly-eyed enough to see that there is no alternative to practical coexistence. Spurning diplomatic and political relations, he has said that he wants economic and trade links to be maintained, and has ordered... assurances that Zimbabwe will not be used as a base for guerrilla attacks against South Africa.

For its part, Pretoria has still not fully recovered from the shock of Mr Mugabe's emergence, about which the South Africans miscalculated more disastrously than most, and there is pressure from Mr Botha's hardliners to use the economic weapon to punish Zimbabwe for its verbal imperialism.

A test of Pretoria's attitude over the coming weeks will be the fate of an 18-year-old preferential trade agreement, due to expire at the end of March, under which some 24 per cent of Zimbabwe's total manufactured exports enjoy low-tariff, and in some cases duty-free, entry to South Africa.

South Africa abruptly announced the termination of the agreement in April of last year, but last month indicated willingness to reconsider. Zimbabwe's chances of reducing trade links with South Africa and restoring the kind of commercial relationship with neighbouring black states which it had

ROBERT MUGABE
Prime Minister and leader of ZANU-PF
57 seats
(62.9 per cent of votes)



JOSHUA NKOMO
Leader of the Patriotic Front
20 seats
(24.1 per cent)



BISHOP ABEL MUZOREWA
Former Prime Minister of Zimbabwe Rhodesia and leader of the United African Council
3 seats
(8.2 per cent)



IAN SMITH
Former Prime Minister of Rhodesia and leader of the Republican (formerly Rhodesian) Front; all 20 seats on white voters' roll (includes Asians and mixed races)

before UDI and sanctions (as a net exporter not only of food but also manufactured products, services and some capital goods) are hampered not least by the persistent balance of payments difficulties of these countries.

There are better hopes of reducing dependence on South Africa's transport system and thereby also opening up possibilities for other landlocked countries in the region whose lines of communication pass through Zimbabwe. The natural route for Zimbabwe's trade is through the Mozambique ports of Beira and Maputo.

Although the rail lines to Beira and Maputo were reopened in 1980, the two ports are still handling less than 20 per cent of Zimbabwe's trade. Beira needs heavy dredging, can only take ships of less than 25,000 tons and has no container

facility. Maputo, though bigger and better equipped, is still hampered by the loss of Portuguese technicians, and a lack of telex and telephone links.

This helps to explain Zimbabwe's strong commitment to SADC (Southern African Development Conference), which unites it with eight other black states in the region — Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zambia — in an endeavour to promote self-reliance and reduce dependence on South Africa.

Zimbabwe's potential as the industrial engine-room and granary of the SADC grouping is the only member state with a food surplus) is sufficient cause for the deep dislike it arouses in Pretoria, which had hopes of luring its neighbours into

a "constellation" of Southern African states intended, in part, to legitimize the Bantustan homelands.

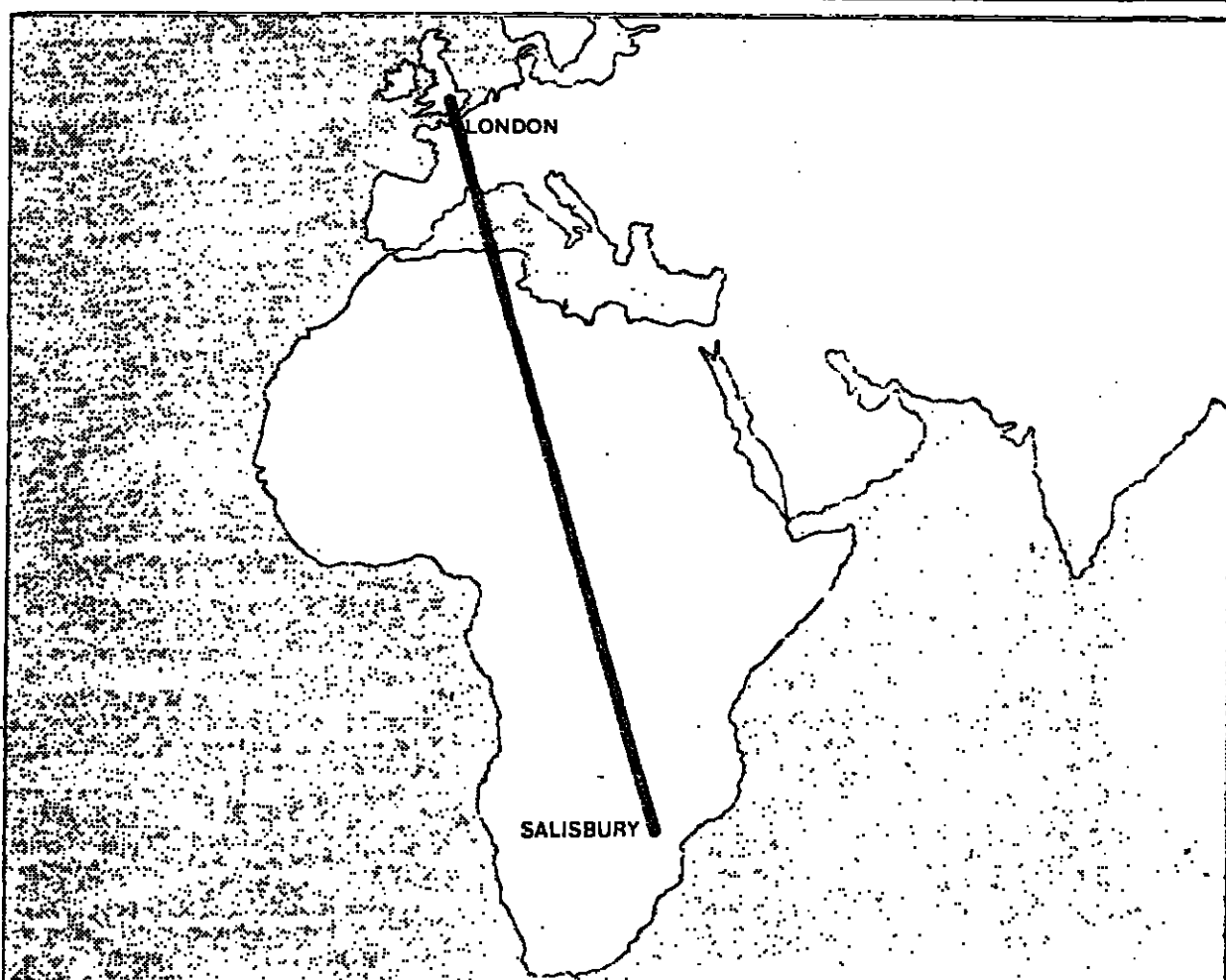
Mr Mugabe's relations with President Samora Machel of Mozambique, forged during the years of guerrilla struggle when Zanu had its war base in Maputo, are close, and there has been discussion (and so far only that) of Zimbabwe's sending in its large and under-occupied army to help combat the insurgents, who are mainly made up of former black members of the Portuguese Armed Forces.

Salisbury and Maputo are both convinced, rightly or wrongly, that the Mozambique insurgents would not be as successful as they are at sabotaging rail and port facilities without the enthusiastic assistance of the South Africans, who predictably

enough disclaim any interest in mischief-making of this kind.

One target of the insurgents, The Lonrho-owned oil pipeline from Beira to Umtali, has now been extensively renovated, and at full capacity should easily be able to handle all Zimbabwe's diesel and petrol requirements provided agreement can be reached on a fee for its use. Running for 30 miles of its length above ground, it remains, however, very vulnerable to attack.

The pipeline would remove one element of Zimbabwe's dependence on South Africa, for the rest, any over-hasty attempt to reduce trade and transport links on its giant neighbour would cause great economic disruption with ripple effects on foreign investment and the rate of exodus of white skills.



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The boom in the first year of independence has subsided. Stephen Taylor takes stock of the economic realities today and then a more detailed look at the clouds over the mining industry and farming prospects.

Weak performance blights early bright economic prospects

The boisterous real growth of the economy in the first year of independence following the lifting of sanctions, officially recorded at 14 per cent, slowed down to 8 per cent in 1981 and gives every indication of dropping another two percentage points this year. The slowdown was due to a weaker performance by the mining sector compounded by foreign currency limitations, transport problems and shortages of skills.

A year ago inflation was low and there was a comfortable level of foreign currency reserves but since then inflation has doubled to 16 per cent and foreign reserves have dropped to the equivalent of about two months of imports.

These trends have been countered by drastically curbing foreign currency allocations for two quarters running, raising interest rates and discouraging consumer credit while at the same time Government has had increasing recourse to short-term foreign borrowing and has used credits to maintain import levels.

The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe says that although it is too early to judge the effectiveness of these measures there are encouraging signs that the explosion in domestic demand is starting to abate and the acceleration in inflation has been curbed. However the new minimum wage for industrial workers alone, which came into effect on January 1, is expected to increase consumer demand by Z\$200m.

The deterioration in the balance of payments is causing concern although one of the contributing factors, transport difficulties, is being relieved. By the end of last year there had been a substantial easing following the arrival of locomotives on loan from South Africa and improvement in maintenance which has brought repaired stock back into service.

At the same time government spending, 66 per cent of it recurrent, has substantially increased and the latest review by the Reserve Bank contains a warning to both Government and the private sector that strenuous efforts should be made to relate

growth in expenditure to levels "more in line with the expansion of the economy's productive capacity".

Agriculture was a mainstay last year. The record maize crop and the highest prices ever paid in Zimbabwe for tobacco were principal features of a bumper harvest which saw the value of crops increase by 70 per cent on 1981.

Manufacturing output continued to grow although there were indications that it was levelling off. The most recent figures show that in the third quarter of last year production grew 8.4 per cent on 1980. The rate was higher in the first and second quarters and the overall figure for the first nine months showed an increase of 11.5 per cent. Transport equipment showed the greatest growth followed by clothing, footwear and chemicals.

Package brings in price freeze

Prospects for 1982 are affected by the foreign currency cutbacks — 10 per cent for the present quarter following the 15 per cent reduction for the final quarter last year — and the new minimum wage providing for an increase from Z\$85 to Z\$105 for industrial, commercial and mining workers. The wages are part of a package announced in December which constitute the Government's response to the Riddell commission of inquiry into incomes, prices and conditions of service.

The measures went further than the Riddell proposals which had envisaged a cautious rise over three years to 80 per cent of the poverty datum line. The government package also brought in a price freeze until March, prohibited retrenchment and placed a limit on the increase that could be paid to higher earners.

Many employees in commerce and industry were already being paid the new minimum and the effect will be felt less than in the mining sector.

Mining experienced a miserable year, its difficulties stemming from low international market prices for minerals, and the total value of production for the first 10 months of 1981 was Z\$319m, a fall of 7.4 per cent on 1980. Mining companies are further bothered by the Government's intention to set up a minerals marketing authority which will be responsible for selling all Zimbabwe's minerals apart from gold.

A boom in consumer demand last year, which outstripped availability and higher domestic costs led to a sharp increase in inflation. By the end of the third quarter it stood at 17.4 per cent — 2 per cent up on the previous quarter — compared with 8 per cent over 1980. At the same time retail sales were 43 per cent up on 1980 levels.

There were implications for the Government's three-year economic development plan, published last year, which was based on an anticipated real growth rate of 8 per cent. The recent report of the Economist Intelligence Unit believes that that rate is unlikely to be maintained although between 6 and 6.5 per cent is possible, provided problems of skill shortages and transport are curbed.

A restricted growth of exports, resulting from those problems, set against high import levels (principally machinery, transport equipment, industrial raw materials and liquid fuels) saw a trade surplus of Z\$109m for the first eight months of 1981 turned into a visible deficit of Z\$49m for the same period last year. In spite of the various measures being taken to reduce the deficit the Reserve Bank sees little prospect of a return to a surplus before the international economy shows a meaningful recovery.

Meanwhile the deficit in government spending, which is being financed mainly by foreign borrowing. During the first quarter of the present financial year government spending amounted to Z\$364.5m compared with Z\$299.7m for the same period of the previous year. Budgeted expenditure for the present financial year is Z\$2,006m of which 58.5 per

Concern over the longer strategy

One matter which remains unresolved and which continues to give rise to concern is the Government's long term strategy towards the private sector. The authorities have frequently stated that they do not seek to nationalize, only to participate in strategic industries, but three instances last year in which the Government was associated with takeovers did not reassure the anxious. In the first two, involving the press and Zimbank, South African interests were acquired for such strategic reasons. The third involved the takeover of a pharmaceutical company.

With further pressures around the corner the year ahead could be crucial in setting once and for all the Government's fundamental economic course.

AGRICULTURE

Down to earth with a bump



An abundant maize crop, but how much longer will this white farmer own it? Land settlement remains one of the country's thorniest problems.

After a record season which exceeded the wildest hopes of both farmers and government, agriculture, on which 75 per cent of the population depend for their livelihood, is approaching the 1981-82 season with more modest expectations.

Last year's bumper harvest encountered considerable marketing and transport problems, but it underlined Zimbabwe as the leading agricultural exporter in black Africa and demonstrated vividly to the Government the value of an efficient commercial farming sector.

A perfect growing season saw tobacco again become the country's top foreign currency earner and produced the country's largest-ever maize harvest. Sales of major crops up to September amounted to Z\$495.8m, more than 70 per cent up on the previous year.

White farmers, who were the most enthusiastic supporters of the Smith Administration and bore the brunt of the guerrilla war, were riding on a wave of prosperity that few would have thought possible under majority rule.

Mr James Sinclair, president of the Commercial Farmers' Union, which represents 4,800 white and 200 black farmers, recently spelt out the reasons for the evaporation of last season's euphoria.

Drought has affected some of the best land in the country as well as the so-called communal lands of black peasant farmers who contributed 10 per cent to total output last year. This season they are unlikely to produce more than a subsistence crop while overall production is expected to be reduced by 40 per cent.

The increase in the minimum wage for farm workers from Z\$30 to Z\$50 will, says CFU, have a marked effect on the incentive to grow labour-intensive crops such as tobacco, cotton, tea and coffee — all important exports. There are other implications which are the subject of discussions

between the CFU and the Government.

A drastic reduction in the foreign currency allocations to buy farm equipment. The quota for tractors has been reduced from Z\$1.65m for the last quarter to Z\$313,000 and the allocation for large tractors and combines has been scrapped altogether.

Concern over the latest projections on the land resettlement programme issued by the Government. The CFU says that if land areas cited in the document are adhered to, the Government will have to acquire more than 60 per cent of the land now owned by commercial farmers.

This year's maize harvest is estimated at between one million and 1.3 million tonnes compared with 2.5 million tonnes last year. Prospects for tobacco are nowhere near as good this last month in a more than usually charged atmosphere following the 66 per cent wage increase.

The CFU refuses to close what increases are being sought but confirms that some commodities will have to go up by 15 per cent just to meet the higher wage bills.

If the negotiations are not successful, the farmers' side says, "the result could be loss of jobs and a loss in production of essential food and cash crops."

Squinting has been less of a problem than was anticipated last year, and most of the areas taken over are land which has been bought by the Government for resettlement but has not yet been utilized because of administrative delays.

In one recent notable case, a white farmer who has been prevented by squatters from using his land won a court order to have them moved.

Nevertheless, as the agricultural sector looks to the future with a continued sense of optimism, the land issue seems likely to remain a cloud over long-term prospects.

MINING

A period of distress

Although economists believe that Zimbabwe's diverse mining industry can look forward to sustained growth from next year until 1985, it is now, in the words of a senior official, "going through a period of distress, stemming from declining production and low prices for key minerals."

The statistics speak for the importance of the industry: more than 40 minerals are mined, producing more than 50 per cent of foreign exchange earnings. They include major deposits of gold, chrome and asbestos; indeed, Zimbabwe is the second largest chrome producer, and has the largest high-grade deposits in the world.

Other important minerals are nickel, copper, coal, iron, silver and tin, and although most deposits of these are low grade they are generally contained within small areas, making the mining operation flexible and low in investment cost.

Metallurgists believe that detailed surveys would reveal further resources, and one recent estimate put the total mineral wealth of the country at more than Z\$40,000m.

Against these impressive figures must be set a gloomy picture, largely based on world prices which has carried over from 1981 and looks like extending well into the year. At the same time anxiety in the industry is high over the implications of the Minerals Marketing Bill which has been approved by Parliament.

The year of independence was a good one with the value of mineral production reaching Z\$414m, a record for the eighteenth successive year. What that figure does not disclose, however, is the

steady decline in production volume which by February last year was 22 per cent down on the peak in 1976.

The downward trend was particularly noticeable last year. By October, the last month for which figures are available, production was valued at only Z\$319m and one informed estimate puts total 1981 production at Z\$375m.

A key factor was the loss of skilled staff, a national problem but one which has had a particularly deleterious effect on mining because, says Mr Roy Lander, president of the Chamber of Mines, "we mine a pretty low grade product and we must be efficient to be profitable."

Expanded training programmes are not expected to bring much relief this year, and costs will go up by more than 20 per cent. Interest rates have doubled and Mr Lander says the increase in the minimum wage from Z\$85 a month to Z\$105 will

put up the mining wage bill to Z\$200m for the year.

The Government's appreciation of the problem has prompted it to call a one-year moratorium on two changes in taxation budgeted last year — a reduction in the capital redemption allowance and abolition of the depletion allowance — which would have increased mining taxes considerably.

But if companies such as Anglo-American, Rio Tinto, Lonrho, Union Carbide and Turner and Newall are pleased with the Government's consideration of their difficulties, they remain deeply concerned over its decision to establish a state-run minerals marketing board with wide-ranging powers and responsibilities for selling all mineral output.

Mr Maurice Nyagumbo, the Minister of Mines, insists that the creation of the Minerals Marketing Corporation of Zimbabwe — which was approved by Parliament

in January — is not a first step to nationalizing the industry but is a "rightful participation in the disposal of a strategic and non-renewable resource. The Government is also clearly concerned that there have been malpractices through transfer pricing and under-invoicing of minerals to companies outside the country."

In response, the Chamber of Mines says that no instances of malpractices have been cited and that the powers of the new board enable it to "take over the marketing function completely, to control the size of producers' stockpiles and therefore (their) rate of production, to take possession of producers' outputs long before payment (is) made, to negotiate binding contracts for the sale of minerals without incurring any legal liabilities or responsibilities and to hold on to... the industry's revenue for periods of up to 30 days."



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A major commitment to the future is the large-scale expansion of opencast coal mining at Wankie to fuel a new thermal station to meet Zimbabwe's growing needs for power.

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FOCUS

Compiled by Alan Grainge

Businessmen's Brief

The Republic of Zimbabwe became a fully independent state within the Commonwealth on April 18, 1980. Parliamentary elections to the House of Assembly, with 100 seats divided between African and white members in the ratio of 80:20, resulted in an overall majority for Mr Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union (Patriotic Front) party, Zanu (PF) — which draws its support principally from the majority Shona tribe — with 57 seats.

Mr Joshua Nkomo's mainly Ndebele party, the Zimbabwe African People's Union (Zapu), secured 20 seats and the United African National Congress (UANC) led by the former premier, Bishop Muzorewa, the other three.

The 20 seats allocated to whites were all won by Mr Ian Smith's Rhodesian Front party, since renamed the Republican Front.

Mr Mugabe's administration has been moderate and neither oppressive of the white minority, as some had feared, nor Marxist in style, as some pre-independence indications of Zanu (PF) policy had appeared to threaten.

The government has given priority to the need to revive the economy and to repair the damage caused by the years of economic sanctions and of guerrilla warfare.

These policies have received substantial financial support from the World Bank and some western countries.

The Economy

Towards the end of 1981 there were signs of a decline in the impressive economic growth established in the 18 months after independence. This was partly due to the pressure on foreign exchange

reserves and the consequent decision in September to impose cuts in import allocations. Another factor was the serious lack of locomotives for freight transport. By mid-1981 only half the 220 required were in service, but the decision, in December, by the South African government to restore the 24 previously on loan and the expected delivery of another 60 from the USA promised to avert a major crisis.

In addition, the possibility also reported last month of retaining the preferential trading relations with South Africa, which it had been believed were to cease at the beginning of 1982, gives further grounds for an expectation of a return to a higher rate of growth in the economy this year.

Growth in the manufacturing sector continues to be inhibited by the chronic shortage of skilled labour, but agriculture, particularly the production of maize and tobacco, continued in 1981 the satisfactory growth of 1980.

While inflationary pressure remains high, and economists are forecasting a rate of about 15 per cent for 1982, the government has given clear indications of its readiness to adopt counter measures.

Now that some other uncertainties have also been removed there seem to be genuine possibilities of Zimbabwe returning in 1982 to the kind of economic growth rate achieved in the first year of independence.

Development Plans

At the Zimbabwe Conference on Reconstruction and Development (ZimCORD) in March 1981 more than 70 delegations offered commitments to contribute a total of Z\$128,000m in aid over a period of three years. The government has specified

five areas in which the funds will be used: Land settlement and rural development; repair and reconstruction of war damage; resettlement of war refugees and war displaced people; training and rehabilitation of former combatants and technical cooperation.

To overcome the housing shortage the government has drawn up a Z\$942m five-year plan. This will provide for the construction of 167,000 houses at a cost of Z\$771.5m and a further Z\$30m will be spent on providing about 100,000 houses with electricity.

The high increase in demand for industrial power will be met from two sources: electrical power will be provided by the construction of a Z\$500m thermal power station at Wankie and fuel requirements by the expansion of ethanol production. Population estimated: 7,500,000 Africans and 200,000 Europeans.

Main cities and towns

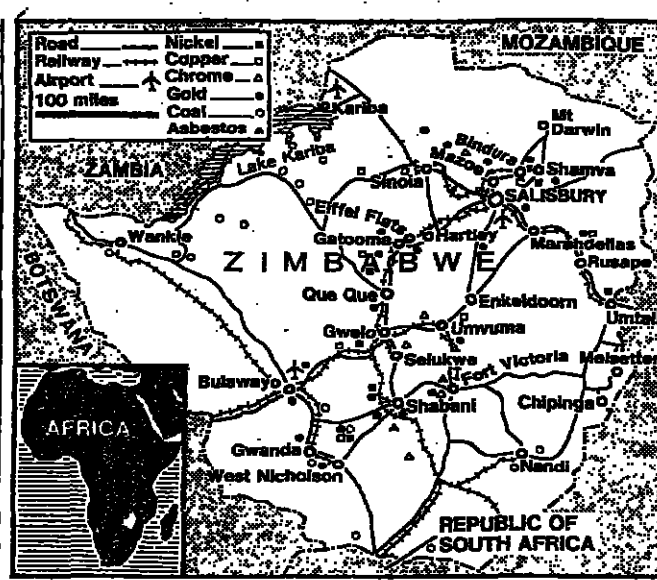
Salisbury (Harare) — population 627,000. The capital and commercial, industrial and communications centre of the country.

Bulawayo (363,000) A major centre of commerce and industry with good communications by rail, air and road with the rest of Zimbabwe. Heavy engineering concentration.

Umtali (63,000) Main town on the eastern border with Mozambique and rail links with the port of Beira. Principal industries are paper milling, food processing and vehicle assembly.

Gwelo (70,000) Situated in the Midlands. Centre of a rich mining area and of growing industrial importance.

Que Que (51,000) Location of the Risco steelworks which



has attracted a number of ancillary and new industries. Wankie (33,000) Situated in the west, has the only operating coal fields in the country and is the site of a coal-fired power station now in the first phase of construction.

The Executive

Prime Minister and Defence: Mr Robert Mugabe
Deputy Prime Minister: Mr Simon Muzenda
Minister without Portfolio: Mr Joshua Nkomo
Foreign Affairs: Mr Winess Mangwanda
Manpower, Planning & Development: Mr Frederick Shava

Finance: Mr Enos Nkala
Justice & Constitutional Affairs: Mr Simbi Muboko
Home Affairs: Mr Richard Howe

Transport: Mr Josiah Chisano
Industry & Energy: Mr Simba Makoni
Labour & Social Services: Mr Kumbirai Kangai

Youth, Sport & Recreation: Mr Ernest Kadungure
Local Government & Housing: Dr Eddison Zvobgo
Lands, Resettlement & Rural Development: Dr Sydney Sekeramayi

Community Development & World Affairs: Mrs Teurai Ropa Nhonzo
Agriculture: Mr Dennis Norman
Natural Resources & Water Development: Mr Joseph Msika

Information & Tourism: Dr Nathan Shamuyarira
Education & Culture: Dr Dzingai Mumbumba
Health: Dr Herbert Ushewokunze
Public Works: Mr Clement Muchachi
Mines: Mr Maurice Nyagumbo

Trade & Commerce: Vacant
Posts & Telecommunications: Vacant

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61 Samora Machel Avenue
Salisbury
Tel: 793064/793000

RAL Merchant Bank
RAL House
67 Samora Machel Avenue
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Tel: 703071

Speke Avenue
Salisbury
Tel: 700631
Grindlays Bank
1st Floor
Ottoman House
Samora Machel Avenue
Salisbury
Tel: 706351
Bank of Credit and Commerce
Zimbabwe
60 Union Avenue
Union House
Salisbury
Tel: 794624
Barclays Bank International
Barclay House
Stanley Avenue/First Street
Salisbury
Tel: 706301
100 Abercorn Street
Bulawayo
Tel: 71761
The Standard Bank
Cnr Manica Road/Orr Street
Salisbury
Tel: 791771
Car 8th Avenue/Fife Street
Bulawayo
Tel: 63861

Travel information

Entry regulations
All visitors require passports but nationals of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Commonwealth countries and the Irish Republic do not need visas. Visitors from the United Kingdom intending to stay for less than six months enter Zimbabwe with minimum formalities. Only simple immigration forms need to be completed: no customs forms. But visitors may be asked to prove that their financial resources are sufficient for their stay and to produce a return ticket if arriving by air.

Health certificates
Smallpox certificates are not required; yellow fever certificates are required from visitors arriving from infected areas. Vaccination against cholera is recommended for those visiting rural areas.

Currency
The unit issued by the Reserve Bank is the Zimbabwe dollar divided into 100 cents. The current rate of exchange is approximately:
125 = UK£ 0.75
125 = US\$ 1.37

Hotels

Salisbury:
Melika Hotel
Stanley Avenue
Tel: 707721
Monomatsapa Hotel
54 Park Lane
Tel: 704501
Jameson Hotel
Samora Machel Avenue
Tel: 794641
Ambassador Hotel
Union Avenue
Tel: 708121
Park Lane
Samora Machel Avenue East
Highlands
Bulawayo:
Holiday Inn
Ascot Centre
Tel: 72464
Bulawayo Sun Hotel
19th Avenue/Wilson Street
Tel: 60101
Grey's Inn
73 Grey Street
Tel: 60121
Hotel Cecil
Fife Street/Third Avenue
Tel: 60295

Bookshelf

Zimbabwe: A 100 page report on commercial, economic and political issues. Price £150. Published by Atlantis Consulting Services Ltd, 101-103 Great Portland Street, London W1N 6BH.
The Europa Yearbook Europa Publications Ltd, 18 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3JN. The 1980 edition costs £30 and contains information on Zimbabwe on pages 1816-1835. **Industry & Commerce of Zimbabwe Rhodesia 1979**. Thom's Commercial Publications (Pvt) Ltd, PO Box BW 451, Borrowdale, Salisbury.
Economic Survey of Zimbabwe. Annually. Ministry of Finance, Salisbury.
Monthly Digest of Statistics. Central Statistical Office, Salisbury.

Communications

Air: Air Zimbabwe's internal network covers most of the main business and holiday centres daily. Between Salisbury and Bulawayo there

are three flights daily each way.
Rail: The National Railways of Zimbabwe links the main centres and connects with the rail systems of South Africa, Botswana, Mozambique and Zambia.
Road: There are about 4,100km of inter-city and inter-territorial roads of full width macadam surface.

Trade

Imports: Apart from petroleum and allied the principal commodity groups are machinery and transport equipment, chemicals, steel plates and sheets, and textile piecegoods. There is little provision in the import licensing system for consumer goods.
Exports: The principal commodities are gold, asbestos, copper, nickel, tin, ferro alloys, ingots and billets, bar and rod sections and wire. Other exports of growing importance are non-electrical machinery and parts, radio and television sets and components, textile yarns and fabrics, leather goods, clothing and accessories, footwear, wooden products, furniture, paper manufactures, travel goods, sanitary and light fittings and jewellery.

Diplomatic missions

London
High Commissioner: HE Mr R. T. Zwiniora
Deputy High Commissioner: Mr Phibbons John Shoniwa
Address: High Commission for the Republic of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe House, 429 Strand, London WC2R 0SA
Telephone: 01-836 7755

Zimbabwe
High Commissioner: R. A. C. Byatt CMG
Counsellor (Commercial/Economic): J. N. Elam
Address: The British High Commission, 7th Floor, Stanley House, Stanley Avenue, Salisbury.
Telex: 4607 a/b RH
Telephone: Salisbury 793781

Zimbabwe is now firmly set on the road to progress and prosperity— due to the diligence with which the Government has implemented its various programmes and also to the generosity of those countries which have offered material and moral aid

THE CORNERSTONE around which this success story is being woven is the three "Rs" propounded by the Prime Minister, Mr Robert Mugabe — reconstruction, rehabilitation and reconciliation.

Zimbabwe's reconstruction plans have three major objectives: to rebuild the destruction caused by the war, to provide adequate accommodation for the increasing population and to cater for the leisure time and work requirements (nationally and internationally) of a developing country.

A Z\$942m five-year Government plan to overcome the housing shortage has been drawn up — an urgent necessity as the national backlog has been assessed at 60,000 units. Also about 100,000 existing houses throughout the country require electrification at an estimated cost of \$30m over the five year period. The programme is ambitious but the careful planning which has gone into it is ensuring success. For instance, the plan involves the construction of 167,000 houses at a cost of \$771.5m and in addition to this, the Government intends to provide funds for home owners who wish to extend the low cost "core" houses. These are houses on to which can be added extra rooms and facilities as a unit.

However, all the development will not be in the domestic sphere. As a booming tourist and conference centre, Zimbabwe needs extra facilities to accommodate the influx of visitors. To this end, the Government is to participate in two major hotel and conference centre schemes in Salisbury. One of the schemes is to be for a 700 bedroom five-star hotel plus conference centre to seat 5,000 people — as well as ancillary services.

On the rehabilitation side the tasks are being dealt with just as enthusiastically — the task of resettling and rehabilitating a displaced population and reconstructing a war-torn economy. As part of the post-war recovery programme, refugees within the country have been returned to their homes from 29 of the so-called "protected villages" and various squatter camps. One of the more rewarding aspects of the programme was the return of 17,000 refugee children from Mozambique and Zambia to holding camps within this country and thence to their families.

The Government has been tackling the mammoth task of rebuilding the country with energy and enthusiasm, but with the advent of the independence it was realized that assistance from the international community would be needed to get the programme off the ground. To this end, ZIMCORD (Zimbabwe Conference on Reconstruction and Development) was convened in March 1981. Essentially there were five areas in which the international community was urged to aid Zimbabwe:

- (1) Land settlement and rural development;
- (2) Repair and reconstruction of war damage;
- (3) Resettlement of war refugees and war displaced people;
- (4) Training and rehabilitation of former combatants;
- (5) Technical co-operation.

During the Conference more than 70 delegations comprising 267 members deliberated on these points. It was hoped by the Government that a figure of \$1.2 billion would eventually be reached — however, once all aid — pre and post Conference — was totalled the figure realised was a mammoth \$1.28 billion.

Much of the driving force behind Zimbabwe's three 'R' concept is amply summed up in a policy statement made by the Minister of Economic Planning and Development, Dr Bernard Chidzero: "Government is determined to forge ahead with the task of building a progressive, non-racial and egalitarian society which draws on the energies and abilities of all its peoples, without regard for their race, colour or creed." This is exemplified by some of the statistics arising out of the programme:

- a) The Government has settled most of the war refugees already and to them and other refugees has provided food, shelter, land and a basic means of sustenance for the initial year of independence;
- b) The Government is planning a programme aimed at the acquisition of two million hectares of commercial farming land over a three year period for dryland resettlement;
- c) Low-interest, medium and short term credit schemes are being planned;
- d) Thousands of boreholes — essential in many areas of the country — have been brought back to use;
- e) Already, 20 villages in the communal lands have had pumping plants installed to supply reticulated water.
- f) A nationwide programme to rehabilitate former combatants who wish to return to civilian life has been launched. Each soldier wanting and allowed to demobilise will be paid a wage by the Government equating with the standard of living he was used to while in the National Army. This will be paid over two years while he or she is becoming established. The scheme also includes educational and vocational training.

The last of the three 'Rs' — reconciliation — has few statistics to present. Reconciliation is a state of mind rather than of fact. But from the successful integration of the armed forces to the relaxed social atmosphere throughout Zimbabwe, it is becoming increasingly obvious that the adoration by Mr Mugabe to work together to make a success of the fledgling state has had a marked effect on all sections of the community.

One of the more nebulous industries in Zimbabwe is that of tourism — also, to some, one of low priority. Bearing in mind the attention which has to be paid to the large proportion of non-tourist orientated Zimbabweans, this industry might well seem a strange bedfellow for the mundanities of tilling the soil or putting an extra bedroom on a dwelling. But this is not so. The foreign earnings from this industry are considerable and are an integral part of national economics.

Tourism's recovery from wartime stagnation has been remarkable. In 1980, income amounted to \$23 million. The target for this year is \$45 million and, by 1986 it is anticipated that one million tourists will bring in \$60 million. Confidence in both the country and the industry is evidenced by the decision of an hotel group to invest \$7.5 million in renovation and expansion programmes.

From the nebulous to the ultra-pragmatic — mining. Endowed with a large variety of minerals, Zimbabwe has proven an irresistible magnet for world investment.

Mining is on the up-and-up. During 1980, more than 5,000 ordinary prospecting licences were issued compared with slightly more than 1,000 in 1979. Since independence, 44 exclusive prospecting orders have been granted compared with 22 in 1979 and

6 in 1978. These exploration and prospecting activities will expand the country's mineral information base and it is hoped that they will result in the discovery of strategic mineral deposits such as uranium.

As many countries have found, a viable environment for investment in mining exists in Zimbabwe. In contrast to many other countries, the acquisition of prospecting and mining rights under existing mining laws are straightforward and are, in themselves an inducement to outside investors who wish to examine and exploit the country's mineral wealth.

But industry needs power. And the high increase in the demand for it will be provided by two sources. Electrical power will be catered for by the construction of a \$900 million thermal power station at Wankie; the fuel requirements by expansion of ethanol production. In the longer term, Zimbabwe's high sunshine ratio could lead to the viable harnessing of solar energy.

The Electricity Supply Commission's new coal-fired power station scheduled to come into operation in 1983, is vital in ensuring that the country is self sufficient.

On the fuel aspect, the first ethanol plant in the country costing \$4 million, was opened in September last year by the Prime Minister. Initial scepticism quickly evaporated as motorists found no complaint with the fuel blend of petroleum and ethanol. Interest in a second plant was expressed by a British company, Dashwood Finance Company Ltd, in June this year. The entire project is to cost US\$1,500 million to be completed over a five-year period. The first stage, costing US\$300 million would be the biggest project by a single private company since Zimbabwe gained independence. Transport too, has had a boom. Air Zimbabwe, the national airline, has had its facilities increased by a further three Boeing 707s and links have been opened with London, Frankfurt and Nairobi. Other connections are in the pipeline, including a third European centre.

But the internal structure of the system of transport is just as important. The National Railways of Zimbabwe are a vital link; not only with neighbouring countries but within the nation. A milestone in the scheme to improve efficiency and to cater for anticipated requirements was reached in September of this year when work was begun on construction for electrifications of the Salisbury-Gwelo line.

It marked the culmination of two decades of effort and planning. The contract involves 475, single-track kilometres to be electrified. The contract was awarded to a British firm.

The NRZ's current capital budget and development programme over the next six years, envisages expenditure of about Z\$332.5 million of which Z\$216.7 million is to cover stages one and two of the main line electrification programme. This includes the cost of locomotives.

The picture is incomplete. There are areas of endeavour in the nation's re-building programme which have not been explored. But the general picture emerges — that of a nation which has the potential and the wherewithal, both materially and within the population to work together, to produce the environment for effort, individual and collective; national and international.

The ground in Zimbabwe is fallow. All it needs is the tilling, sowing and reaping to prove it is the fastest growing and most progressive on the continent.

BU

Rob

WORLD POPULATION

EUROPEAN

WESTERN

CENTRIST

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1980

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2010

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BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

PEOPLE

Prudential window dressing

A sly overcast; no glare; visibility of the sort golfers relish; so why was I less than spellbound at the unveiling yesterday of the Prudential's new shop window in the City?

For at its Lime Street branch, hard by the Lloyd's insurance market and the Baltic shipping exchange, the Pru yesterday became the first United Kingdom subscriber to Reuters' financial news service as exhibited on an electronic blackboard. An old Pru hand said: "At least we decided what to do with that damned 'window'." Another thought the display a change from potted palms and posters advertising sports.

We guests trooped outside and watched dim electronic words pass sedately in front of us from right to left as it was Arabic. Slowly we deciphered information about gold napoleons. The Reuters man looked at me doubtfully. "Perhaps we should cross the road. We should read it better there. We did. The electronic words became invisible."

The Reuters man came to a decision. Perhaps we had better take off the grill, he said. At this point I left. It took a minute for the 'T' index to come up on the visual display, but perhaps it was better than sport for which, alas, I have a blind spot.

This Sugar is good for you



Alan Sugar — sweet talk

A haughty spirit goes before a fall, the Book says, and if John Bloor of Rolls Razor and Sir Freddie Laker had been failing in common it was the over confidence that depends on other people's money.

Alan Sugar, 34, is the man, in City eyes at least, who is Amstrad Consumer Electronics, the hi-fi and car entertainment group which has so far not put a foot wrong.

Who can quibble with doubled profits and a dividend up a fifth? What shareholder will sniff at shares worth three times more than when they were offered for sale less than two years ago?

Sugar tells me: "The two men you mention made one mistake — they borrowed money. I do not owe a penny to anyone. Indeed my company has a lot of cash in the bank." "How," I asked, "do you plan to keep an eye on everything as your group grows bigger?" He replied: "I have a good team."

This businessman has the canniest of one much older. He has, however, to make his first mistake. But it is something that he has not sold a single share, and possibly more than his profits do not lean overmuch on CB Radio. "People got over excited when it came in," he tells me.

"Now they're falling for a lot of nonsense about a big sleep. It is simply steady business."

How I wish he knew who would succeed him if he fell under a bus.



Peter Wainwright

NEW APPOINTMENTS

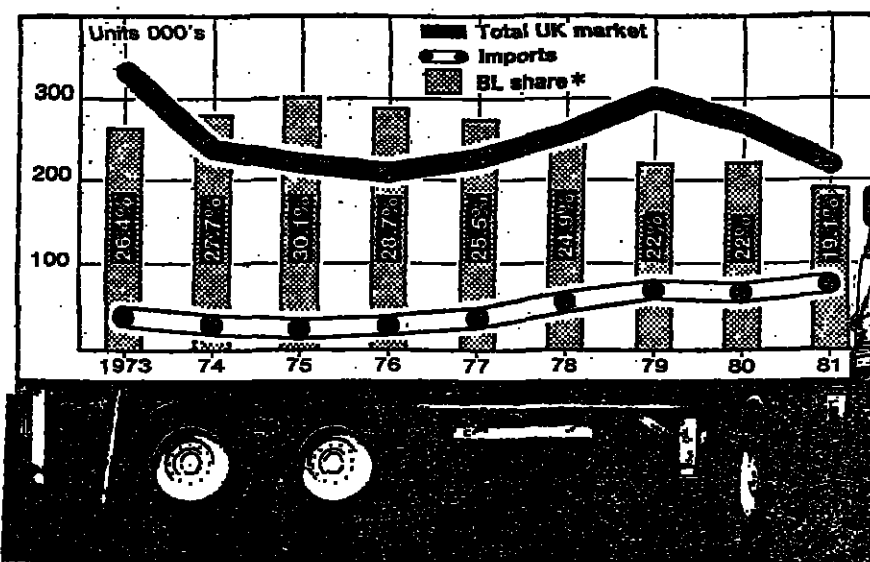
Mr J. H. Carter, Mr R. A. Daws, Mr J. E. Reynolds and Mr F. E. Thorne have been appointed directors of C. T. Bowring Reinsurance.

Mr Alan Bewick has been appointed director of purchasing of Unipart.

Mr R. H. K. Seelig, a director of Morgan Grenfell has been appointed to the board of the wholly-owned American subsidiary company of Morgan Grenfell.

Mr J. R. F. Fairbrother and Mr G. A. Maclean have been appointed as directors and Mr J. E. Heslett a manager of Baring Brothers.

BL's truck division may be running out of road



Commercial vehicle registrations

* Includes car-derived vans and Land Rovers



Today the BL board meets to thrash out the future of its strike bound trucks division. BL says the subsidiary will have little chance of survival without 4,000 redundancies. Edward Townsend reports.

Once again, just as it seemed as if the millstone of British Leyland was slowly being lifted from the taxpayers' overburdened shoulders, another deepening crisis is threatening the state-owned enterprise.

The Leyland Group, the company's truck and bus section, which traditionally has been more stable than the volatile cars operation, has been paralysed by strike action for nearly three weeks, and with no sign of a settlement, BL has begun to deliver the dire warnings that workers throughout the company have heard all too often before.

Without the 4,100 redundancies and restructuring — the cause of the present dispute — the trucks business has little chance of survival, BL says. The stoppage is said to be threatening the whole future of BL truck-making while overseas customers "must be asking why a proud company with such long traditions can commit hara-kiri."

Today, the BL board meets for the first time since the Leyland crisis erupted and may have to make some harsh decisions about the future size of Leyland and the current extensive model replacement programme.

This was the cloud that hung over Sir Michael Edwards, BL chairman, when he faced more than two hours of Select Committee grilling in the House of Commons recently. He was able to tell MPs that at last things were looking up, and a trading profit for 1983 was on the cards, but that the trucks business presented the greatest uncertainty.

It has since become clear that the BL board foresaw at the end of last year that unless some major surgery was performed on Leyland its losses had consumed this year at a rate of £2m a week — the government was likely to rethink its £900m, two-year funding of the BL survival plan.

The bombshell was dropped by Mr David Andrews, BL executive deputy chairman last November. At the Leyland assembly plant, Lancashire, 1,855 jobs were to go, a further 1,350 redundancies at Bathgate, West Lothian, which is to become the company's primary engine facility, 750 at Guy Motors in Wolverhampton which is to be closed, 120 at Albion Motors in Glasgow, and a further 25 administrative jobs.

With almost 19 per cent of the Leyland Group workforce due to be sacked, feelings understandably are running high and heels are being dug in. Only 100 of the Leyland

strikers voted at their last mass meeting against continuing the stoppage and discussions between management and union officials ended in deadlock last week. Formal talks are not to be resumed until next Monday. Leyland workers proud of their truck-making traditions, want new investment, expansion and scrapping of the redundancy plans.

The stalemate could well force the company into a more savage pruning operation. The fear among workers is that BL, which has little, if any, money to spare to finance a prolonged shut down of trucks output, may close factories and turn the business into a mere assembly operation for other firms' components, a move which some claim was BL's intention from the start.

Clear warnings of hard times ahead for the truck workers were contained in BL review of its 1981 performance presented to the Government in December. The greatest problems and worst results lay in the Leyland group, it said, and "massive cost reductions" were necessary for viability.

The revised 1982 plan for trucks, which is now in jeopardy, called for restructuring and redundancies but also stressed BL's intention to manufacture a full range of lorries — from vans to heavy articulated vehicles — in a bid to retain the vital support of the group's UK dealers and the confidence of commercial fleet buyers.

It added that future market demand and sales volumes would be much lower than previously forecast "and the business is too complex and the fixed cost structure too expensive for the resources (management, technical, capital) which at lower scale of business could support."

Even with streamlining, the current dispute probably has quashed any hope that the Leyland group would break even this year. And the cuts could prove to be insufficient if the home market for heavy trucks over 3.5 tons gross weight, on which the company is largely dependent, falls significantly

below last year's dismal sales figure of 44,950.

The reorganisation plan, devised by Mr Andrews and Mr Ron Hancock, Leyland managing director, is based on the weeding-out of the less efficient production operations and greater reliance on collaboration deals with other companies.



BL chairman Sir Michael Edwards: he faced two hours of Select Committee grilling at the House of Commons over the future of Leyland.

ments for the Boxer and Terrier trucks.

In reviewing these measures, BL directors must now be looking at the success of its Indian subsidiary, Ashok Leyland, in which BL has a 50.6 per cent stake.

Significantly, £108m of the £300m capital spending earmarked for the Leyland



BL executive deputy chairman, David Andrews: he has special responsibility for the trucks division and broke the news about the redundancies.

Production of Landtrain, the heavy truck for export markets, is to be transferred from Guy Motors in Wolverhampton, which is to be closed, to Bathgate.

Tractors and the EA and FC light trucks presently built at Bathgate are to be phased out and the Scottish plant will become the main truck engine facility. BL is about to announce a long-term deal with a major world engine maker for a unit to replace the Bathgate-built 98 series engine (with Bathgate producing some of the parts) but this may now need to be reappraised.

Gearbox manufacture at the Albion works in Glasgow is to cease — only one in ten Leyland trucks is fitted with BL transmission — and the plant will concentrate on axles. The big Leyland facility in Lancashire will become the main assembly plant, building all new models including replace-

group in the next four years is for Ashok where truck chassis output is expected to be higher next year than in the United Kingdom is to end and as well as the unnamed replacement for the 98 series, Leyland plans to buy Rolls-Royce and United States-built International Harvester power units.

A simplified manufacturing pattern has also been proposed for Leyland's bus making plants but these, too, are being hit by the trucks strike. The four bus factories at Workington, Bristol, Lowestoft and Leeds, which are 50 per cent owned by National Bus, are gradually being starved of automatic transmissions, axles, engines and other bits and pieces from Leyland.

The big factor that has accelerated the need for the rationalization and exacerbated Leyland's troubles was last year's dramatic slump in the truck market at home. Total sales were down by 20

per cent on 1980 to under 218,000 with the importers helped by the success of cheap Japanese vans, increasing their share from 24.31 per cent.

Sir Michael admits that the company was "way out" in its market forecasts but so too was the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders which predicted at the start of 1981 that the year's total van and truck sales would be 240,000.

Unfortunately for Leyland, the sudden plunge in demand occurred just as it was only half way through the introduction of its new T45, a full range of light to heavy trucks aimed at the whole European market.

Starting at the heavy end, Leyland introduced the Roadtrain articulated lorry cab and followed up with the export-only Landtrain and Landmaster trucks, the Constellation, Cruiser and Freightor.

The next key model, at present coded the 207, will replace the 16-ton Clydesdale built at Bathgate. Development work on the 207 has been continuing at Leyland and this is behind some of the unrest in Scotland. The truck is due to be launched at this year's motor show and is regarded by the company as crucial to Leyland's survival.

Scheduled for launch late next year is the final T45 model, a light 7.12-ton vehicle. Financial approval was expected to be agreed at today's board meeting but there is now a possibility that this will be postponed.

Without the new models, Leyland will be in a poor position to combat the fierce competition from Ford, Bedford and Dodge and the major importers such as Volvo, Mercedes and Iveco.

All these events are taking place against an increasingly gloomy background for the truck industry. DRI Europe, the former Economic Models forecasting group, said in a recent survey that the United Kingdom industry may never recover from the recession and its lack of competitiveness will continue to depress exports. The United Kingdom it said continues to be "the blackspot of Europe."

Business Editor

Lesson from Carr Sebag

If ever there was a glaring pointer to the problems facing the medium-sized stockbroker with rapidly rising costs, then Exco's effective capital injection into Carr Sebag is it.

Since Christmas Carr Sebag has been casting around for more cash, which at one stage seemed likely to come from one institution and to be put into the business as a whole. Merchant bankers, champing at the bit, were ruled out because of a possible conflict of interest. The Stock Exchange would have had a view on their gaining a physical attachment to brokers anyway.

In the end Carr Sebag's survival had been at the expense of selling off one of the most profitable parts of the business. The question now is whether the cash to be received is enough. The firm says it is, though whether existing partners have had to, or may have to, put up more capital is not clear.

Under-capitalized stockbroking firms is not a new problem. But it is significant that there are now renewed rumblings about increasing the equity level allowed to be in outside hands by 20 per cent to almost a third.

The Council has so far stuck out against having an outside institution with limited liability coming in as major shareholders in a partnership where houses, cars and boats are on line when things go wrong.

The crashes of brokers Norman Collins and Hedderwick Stirling Grumbar last year, and the problems of Carr's with the New Year barely a month old, could well be mellowing their attitude. Medium-sized brokers know too well that they may be first to feel the firing line during the eighties; and the problems that have arisen the Carr Sebag merger may well force them to recognise that mergers between themselves are not necessarily the right route to escape their quandary.

the 1974-79 Labour Government, to acquire a smaller public sector borrowing requirement.

Sir Geoffrey will no doubt breathe a sigh of recognition when he reads that those "four damned letters" — the PSBR — bled and dominated the Labour Government, leading to repeated attempts to find costless means of cutting the published total.

Such wheezes, some of which were apparently nicknamed "Leverettes" after their deviser, included the refinancing of export credits by banks and the replacement of local authority mortgage lending by building societies. The result was to wipe hundreds of millions of pounds off public spending on paper, simply by transferring obligations to the private sector.

Magical conjuring tricks have great appeal to the present Government too. But their sleight of hand has been less expert. They are busy transferring not only public liabilities but public assets as well to private hands.

Some, such as the proposed sale of BNOC's oil producing assets, will, per se, increase the PSBR. Others, such as the sale of profits to the Exchequer.

If Sir Geoffrey sees Mr Barnett's book as a source of ideas for more "ripping wheezes" he will not have learnt his lesson well.

The moral must surely be the urgency of using as a target of policy a number which has little meaning for real economic activity, which can be manipulated merely by definitional shifts between public and private sectors, and which falls utterly to disfigure the public accounts. Spending that is matched by the acquisition of assets and current spending, which is not.

It is to Mr Barnett's credit that he reveals the massaging of PSBR numbers for the sake of the Conservative successor have the courage to do the same?

Car industry A long haul

Disappointing Money supply

Financial markets are much more relaxed about the monthly British money supply figures these days in strong contrast to their paranoid obsession with the weekly American money supply figures.

But even the City was none too happy with yesterday's preliminary estimate from the Bank of England that sterling M3, the broad measure of banking money, may have risen by 1½-2 per cent in the January banking month.

What the increase means is that the annual rate of growth since last February, the base money for the present targeting period, has moved up from 15½ per cent in mid-December to 15½ per cent in mid-January.

The December and January banking months are, of course, rather odd, one being exceptionally short, the other rather longer than usual. Even so, the average rate of growth over the two months of close on 1 per cent is less than encouraging.

Domestic monetary considerations and the dollar exchange rate may argue for interest rate caution, but sterling's unwanted strength against other European currencies seemingly calls for a different course.

PSBR 'Leverettes'

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor, should find instructive bedside reading during his pre-budget purdah. "Inside the Treasury" the new book by Joel Barnett, former chief secretary to the treasury, recounts some of the "ripping wheezes" devised by Lord Lever, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, during Budget box next month.

The year came in with a whimper in the car-making business, as yesterday's vehicle production figures issued by the Department of Industry indicate. Output of only 71,000 United Kingdom cars, similar to the depressed level a year earlier, hardly gives rise to hopes of recovery.

Like some other sectors, however, the motor industry seems confident that it has at last hit the bottom of the recession. Car output last year at 918,000 was a far cry from the declines averaging 150,000 cars in the previous two years.

But it is clearly going to be a long, slow haul as the United Kingdom car-makers contend with the erosion of international competitiveness which is hitting exports and giving comfort to the importers. The heady days of 1976, when United Kingdom car factories produced 1,333,000 vehicles, will probably never be matched.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders is predicting that this year's production will rise to about 980,000 but this remains small beer compared with forecasts of 1.5m in West Germany, 2.8m in France, 1.4m in Italy and 6.5m in Japan.

BL, which claims to be on the road to recovery, is budgeting for output of 500,000 cars this year, strikes and other disruptions permitting — with Sir Michael Edwards, in his last year as chairman, presiding over the introduction of 10 new models and Land Rovers, including four new derivatives of the Metro.

Are women first to be sacked?

AT WORK: DISCRIMINATION

By Margaret Drummond

The Sex Discrimination Act, for so long the butt of feeble jokes about lady plumbers and chairpersons, is showing its teeth on the work front. It may not have improved women's accessibility to jobs — traditional job segregation on the factory floor seems as rigid as ever — but the SDA may help women keep their jobs in a recession that has taken a proportionately higher toll of female workers.

Two weeks ago Mrs Elizabeth Dicks, a part time scientific researcher at Dundee University, won her case against redundancy before an industrial tribunal. Backed by the Equal Opportunities Commission, Mrs Dicks claimed unfair dismissal and sex discrimination after the university axed her part time job following government spending cuts. Central to her case was the argument that redundancy programmes cutting part time jobs first amounted to indirect sex discrimination because most of these jobs are held by women.

Her success followed another case where the National Council for Civil Liberties won significant victory when an industrial tribunal held that the traditional practice of making part time workers redundant first was illegal under the Sex Discrimination Act. Sandra Powell and Brenda Clarke were among the part time workers, all women, made redundant last Autumn at the Eley Kynoch factory in Birmingham. The redundancy agreement between the employers and the union was that part timers should go first.

If a "last in, first out" selection had been applied to the whole workforce the



Women's rights are slow to filter through to the shop floor

women would not have been made redundant although some full timers, including women workers, would have lost their jobs instead. The tribunal found this form of redundancy agreement in breach of the Sex Discrimination Act.

Sandra Powell was reinstated in her job because she had a young child and was unable to take a full time job. But Mrs Clarke, who had no dependent children, lost her job and is appealing.

But the general principle arising from this case has important implications for the country's 4 million part

timers tend to be in control of the unions anyway.

It is well known that women do not participate so keenly in union matters as men. They are more likely to be at home to look after as well as a job. These redundancy agreements have now been declared unlawful and they should be renegotiated.

Few women know that they may be able to secure redress for their alleged breaches of their rights and even fewer are prepared to run what some see as the gauntlet of diaphanous male chauvinism on the shop floor. But many more are getting militant about it as redundancy becomes a harsh fact of life.

The Equal Opportunities Commission says that one in ten of the complaints it is now receiving are from women facing redundancy. And half of them are part time workers. The EOC suspects this is only the tip of the iceberg. It is impossible to know how many part time workers may have fallen foul of illegal redundancy agreements since the start of the recession.

It is easy to see why the TUC is ducking the issue despite the clear message of the court cases. The old idea of the man as breadwinner, despite the fact that most families need a second wage these days. But much more disturbing is a suggestion that even full time women workers may be discriminated against through redundancy agreements that adopt a "last in, first out" basis in individual sections rather than across the board.

With many factories still effectively divided between "men's jobs" and "women's jobs" the EOC claims these agreements means women are first to be sacked.

A classic example was the recent problems at the Hoover factory in Merthyr Tydfil

where this type of redundancy agreement applied to a near medieval system of job demarcation between the sexes so that a third of the women, but less than 10 per cent of the men in the same semi-skilled grades, stood to lose their jobs. On a straight "last in, first out" principle most of the women's jobs would have been safe.

Threats to take the matter to court under the Sex Discrimination Act resulted in the Hoover management shelving redundancies for six months and forced the union to negotiate a new non-discriminatory union agreement.

The question of whether these kind of redundancy agreements amount to discrimination is being put to the test by another case brought by the EOC. Four women workers at the Kraft factory at Kirby, near Liverpool, alleged sex discrimination in their selection for redundancy.

Their case, which highlights the Byzantine complexity of demarcation practices on the factory floor has been heard by an industrial tribunal and the judgement is eagerly awaited.

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123	100	ABT Hedges 10% CULS	122	—	10.0	8.2	—
75	62	Airspang Group	70	—	4.7	6.7	11.1
51	33	Armstrong & Rhodes	44	—	4.3	9.8	3.7
205	187	Baxton RHL	208	—	9.7	4.8	9.5
104	77	Deborah Services	77	—	6.0	7.8	3.6
130	97	Frank Horsell	130	—	6.4	4.9	11.7
80	39	Frederick Parker	80	—	1.7	2.1	34.8
78	46	George Blair	50	—	—	—	—
102	93	IPC	96	—	7.3	7.6	6.9
105	100	Isis Com Pref	99	—	15.7	15.0	—
113	94	Jackson Group	102	—	7.6	7.4	3.0
130	108	James Burrough	112	—	8.7	7.8	8.2
334	250	Robert Jenkins	252	—	31.3	12.4	3.5
59	51	Scruttons "A"	56	—	5.3	8.5	8.6
222	164	Torday & Carlisle	164	—	10.7	6.5	5.3
15	10	Twinkllock Ord	13	—	—	—	—
80	66	Twinkllock 15% UL5	76	—	15.0	19.7	—
44	27	Unilock Holdings	27	—	3.0	11.1	4.8
103	75	Walter Alexander	75	—	6.4	8.5	4.9
263	212	W. S. Yeates	220	—	13.1	6.0	4.2

Prices now available on Prestel page 48146

Stock Exchange Prices

Further falls

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 25. Dealings End Feb 12. § Contango Day, Feb 15. Settlement Day, Feb 22
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E	1981/82 High Low 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[illegible]

of the drinking trade." This was taken by many of us at first to be a reference to occasionally bottled backbencher. It turned out to be a reference to the whisky industry itself.

Mrs Thatcher, conscious of the drinking class vote, was quick to assure the House that taxation on whisky was lower under her Government. The Opposition Party asked whether to deny or deplore this. Traditionally, Labour Members are unclear about where they stand on whisky, though in the headquarters of the whisky industry conference some of them do not stand on it at all. So some Members denied Mrs Thatcher's claim, others deplored it.

The questioning turned to the subject of Sir Freddie Laker. Here was a subject on which Labour Members could agree. Sir Freddie is

In the end, it is probably simply a question of manner. The Labour Party is simply not at home with people like Sir Freddie. If he had managed to close his air-gauged line by calling it out to sail he would be more popular with them; it is just a question of the right way of going about things. Labour Members are far more at home with the Sir Sturges of Transport, Mr Albert Booth, who spoke in the transport debate and launched an attack on the Government's modest proposal to privatise the National Bus Company. Albert Booth! The very name suggests solidity, lack of risk and the static concept of transport. "Hi, my name is Albert, fly me. No, it doesn't work." "Booth Airways." Definitely not. Here was the sort of provider of transport with whom the Labour Party could do business.

[illegible]

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars **FRONTS** Warm Cold Occluded
 Symbols are on adjoining page

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	3.05	7.2	5.31	7.5
Aberdeen	3.37	7.2	2.42	4.5
Armagh	3.5	13.7	9.01	13.8
Belfast	12.04	3.3	12.19	3.8
Carrick	8.21	12.6	8.45	12.5

Derwent	7.30	5.7	7.53	5.6
Dorset	12.04	6.8	12.24	5.9
Falmouth	7.00	5.5	7.23	5.2
Glasgow	2.07	4.6	2.11	5.2
Harwich	12.26	3.4	1.26	4.8
Harlyhead	11.40	5.9	7.59	7.9
Hull	7.41	7.5	7.41	9.4
Kilfrank	7.23	9.6	7.05	9.7
Luxembourg			7.15	5.8

Leith	3.59	2.7	12.41	9.6
Liverpool	12.22	2.7	11.05	7.8
Lowestoft	11.25	2.5	11.05	7.1
Wantsa	1.13	4.8	1.44	4.8
Bilbao	7.40	2.8	8.01	7.1
Newquay	6.30	7.4	6.51	7.1
Olean	7.01	7.1	7.31	3.0
Penzance	6.31	5.8	6.56	5.5
Portland	8.17	2.4	8.23	2.1

blue sky; C-blue sky & cloud; C- cloudy; C-overcast; T-fog; D-drizzle; H-hail; M-mist; R-rain; S-snow; U- hunderstorm; P-showers; ps-periodical rain with snow. Wind speed in mph	Portsmouth 12.37 4.7 12.34 6.3 Shoreham 12.23 6.7 12.14 6.3 Southampton 12.02 4.7 8.08 9.5 Swinerton 7.45 9.8 5.12 5.7 Tees 5.5 5.5 5.5 5.5 Waltham-on-Aze 12.48 4.2 3.14 4.3 Tide measurement in metres: low-3.20000
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Around Britain					
carborough	Sun hrs	Rate in C	Max 12 F	54 Rain	Torquay
	7.0	13	55	Sunny	

[illegible][illegible]

Abroad

WEDDAY: c. cloud; f. fair; (n. fog; r. rain; s. sun; sl. sleet; m. snow.

[illegible][illegible]

Depart	c	5	41	Las Palmas	f	20	68	Ottawa			Vancouver	e	7	49	45
re				Winston	s	12	54	Paris	s	10	50	Vance	e	6	41
de Town				Lyonore	s	5	46	Puerto	i	1	37	Vieira	e	7	49
Melbourne	c	19	66	Los Angeles	f			Prague	s	14	57	Walsh	e	6	41
Sydney				Luxemburg	f	7	45	Rindes				Zurich	e	7	49

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1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 278: 1039-1044.